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DECCAN HERALD

The Power of Good

Hegseth defends $1.5tn budget amid Iran war scrutiny

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Can non-believer from North India claim right of entry to Sabarimala: SC

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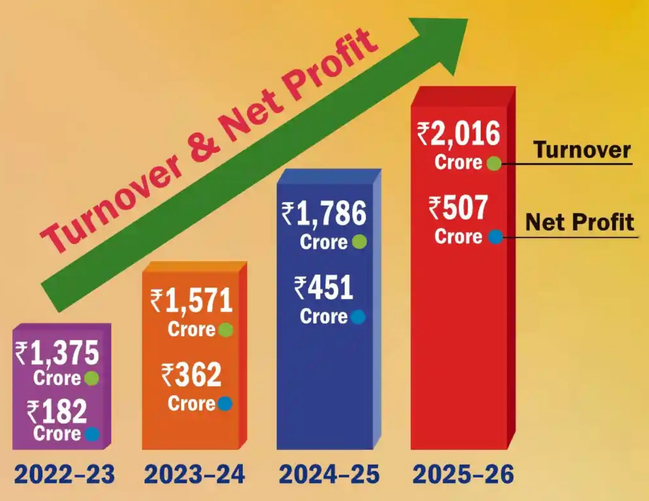
Shri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka

Shri D. K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka

Karnataka Soaps & Detergents Ltd.
(Since 1916)

A Timeless Fragrance,
A New Era of Performance

Karnataka Soaps & Detergents Ltd. has achieved strong growth over the past three years, setting new benchmarks in production, sales, and profits. With its iconic Mysore Sandal products and expanding market presence, the company continues to strengthen customer trust and ensure sustained progress through effective leadership and strategic planning.



Shri M.B. Patil, Hon'ble Minister for Large & Medium Industries and Infrastructure Development, and Shri Appaji C.S. Nadagouda, Hon'ble MLA & Chairman, KS&DL, presenting Mysore Sandal products to Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Siddaramaiah

KS&DL achieves an all-time record in 2025–26

₹2,016 Crore
Turnover

₹507 Crore
Net Profit

₹150 Crore
Dividend to the govt.

A significant leap from 21st to 1st in dividend contribution to the Govt.

47,494 MT
Production

57 New Products

Increase in Exports

Organising the 'Mysore Sandal Soap Mela' across the state

Sandalwood cultivation expansion
700+ Farmers,
3,800+ Acres

From ₹1,000 crore in 105 years
to ₹2,000 crore in just FOUR years
KS&DL's growth story redefined

KSDL Profit Growth: 35% CAGR over the past 5 years

The historic achievement in production, turnover and profit has been realised by enhancing efficiency without adding new machinery or increasing the workforce.

New targets set by
Hon'ble Minister Shri M.B. Patil

Reaching a turnover of ₹3,000 crore by 2028 and ₹5,000 crore by 2030.

Awards and honours received by KS&DL

- Nadaprabhu Kempegowda International Award 2025 from the state government for KS&DL's remarkable achievements
- Best CEO 2025 Award from IIMM
- Excellence in CSR 2025 Award from the Directorial Advisors Consortium (DAC)
- Best Emerging State PSU 2025 Award by News18 Network

Ms. Tamannaah Bhatia, a leading name in the Indian film industry with a strong pan-India presence and over 3 crore social media followers, has been appointed as the brand ambassador of Mysore Sandal Soap.

A big thank you to all the workers, unions, staff, officers,
General Manager - Administration, General Manager - Finance, for their valuable contributions to this stupendous achievement of the organisation.

As enshrined in our Constitution - to safeguard public property and to abjure violence is the fundamental duty of every citizen of India.

Dr. S. Selvakumar, IAS, Principal Secretary
Department of Industries & Commerce

Dr. Prashaanth P.K.M., IFS, Managing Director
Karnataka Soaps & Detergents Ltd.

Where science sparks beyond the syllabus

Through hands-on camps and interactive sessions, the Sagara Science Forum is challenging rote learning and inspiring students to engage with science in new ways, writes Seshadri K S

Children display the skeletons prepared by them at a summer camp on science organised by the Sagara Science Forum at the Science Centre in Sagara. PHOTO BY AUTHOR

"How many of you dislike biology?" asked Prof R Uma Shaanker while speaking to a group of high school students. Several hands went up; a struggle with dry facts and scientific names was a recurring theme. One student even admitted he hated biology simply because he could.

We were in Sagara as resource persons for a summer camp covering all branches of science. Famous for Jog Falls, the town has a long history of promoting science, and we were part of that lineage.

Children on a field visit during the camp.

At 10 am, the Sagara Science Centre was buzzing as parents dropped off their children. The laterite-stone building was pleasantly cool inside despite being partially complete. Our objective over the next two days was to show that biology is more than just diagrams and memorisation.

The Sagara Science Forum (SSF) is a not-for-profit initiative that has spent 15 years silently proliferating public understanding of science. Founded by mathematics teacher late H L Suryanarayana Rao, the SSF has evolved into a hub for experiential learning.

"In 2018, a guest lecture drew only four students; today, the camps run at full capacity", said H S Jeevan, president of SSF. A former scientist at the Max-Planck Institute in Germany who returned to India to farm, Jeevan takes pride in sharing how the SSF has grown — from Rao's spare room to a dedicated facility.

Prof Shaanker, a regular participant since the first lecture series 15 years ago, sees this as a vital intervention. "It is a systemic problem that school education is appalling. Imagination and creativity have taken a beating," he said. "Children merely go through the mill. Any effort to alleviate this, even incrementally, should be welcome," he added. Prof Shaanker was formerly at the University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS), Bengaluru, where he ran the popular Friday Group lectures continuously for 35 years.

Textbook pitfalls

The camps are intentionally disruptive. Using a photograph of a sunflower from a textbook, Prof Shaanker described how seed arrangements follow the Fibonacci sequence, a mathematical principle that has even inspired the arrangement of solar panels to maximise sunlight exposure. To show that graphs and tables have a place in biology too, students first played a game of 'budding' to illustrate population growth, and then simulated the spread of infections and plotted the numbers on the board.

When it was my turn, I asked students to identify amphibians on a slide showing a hippopotamus, a crocodile, a turtle and Olympic swimmer Michael Phelps. Relying on the rote definition "amphibians live on land and water", most children incorrectly classified the hippo and crocodile as amphibians. In reality, amphibians are defined by their dual life stages (aquatic tadpoles and terrestrial adults). Such simple exercises reveal the extent of rote learning in science education today.

The ripple effect

While the SSF is a local initiative, its long-term impact is evident in transformed career trajectories. "I attended a one-day camp at SSF when Rao was active and it instilled a sense of curiosity in me," said Vikas Patil, a former participant. "The camps helped me see the possibilities of pursuing science, which is often perceived as boring," he added. After a brief stint at the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Patil cleared the civil services exams and is now a trainee officer in the Indian Defence Accounts Services.

In a parallel effort, Smriti Tiwari, now a Programme Manager at Socratus, a non-for-profit organisation working on environmental and climate issues, recalled how the now-defunct 'Bio-resources' government-funded training programme during her school years was a turning point. "It was the first time I realised that Environmental Science was an option to study in Bengaluru," she said, emphasising its influence on career choice.

"While the Indian Science Academies' lecture series exists, shrinking resources are causing it to thin out. It is a pity, as it takes only one spark to ignite passion in smaller towns," said Prof Shaanker.

With science funding declining globally, both Prof Shaanker and Dr Jeevan acknowledge that meeting the operational costs of such camps, especially in their formative years, remains challenging. So far, the SSF has managed to keep camps free or minimally priced, supported by grants and in-kind contributions from government and civil society.

By evening, it was time to leave. When invited to share a few words about the camp, the students returned to honesty. One boy, Avin, cheekily called out Prof Shaanker for repeatedly addressing him incorrectly as 'Kevin'. Another student from a nearby village said he enjoyed the forest walk and admitted he had previously seen it only as a source of firewood. "I have realised that being a scientist means staying alert to everything around you," the boy added.

Others asked unexpected questions, often putting us on the back foot and forcing us to admit the limits of our knowledge, and say, "We don't know". It was already dark when we left Sagara, but we left with the sense that a candle had been lit, and that would help dispel the darkness.

(The author is an ecologist and faculty member at ATREE)

Curious children attend a session at the camp.

FEEDBACK
Send your ideas and comments to: spectrum@deccanherald.co.in

Nemichandra writes about a Padma Shri awardee whose lifelong work has focused on uplifting the disadvantaged

A quiet force that shapes many futures

The year was 1997. It was past 10 pm when Jyothi, a young woman in her 20s, arrived at my house in Bengaluru leaving behind a traumatic past. I did not know what to do except call S G Susheelamma and request that Jyothi be accommodated at Sumangali Seva Ashrama, a home for women and children in distress, in Bengaluru. The ashrama gave Jyothi not just shelter, but also an education and the confidence to rebuild her life. Inspired by Susheelamma, Jyothi went on to start Thayi Mane, a small home with 12 destitute children, in 2007.

Susheelamma has touched many lives and continues to reflect on ways to improve the lives of the underprivileged.

I first met Susheelamma in the early 1990s and visited the ashrama in Cholanayakanahalli, which then felt far away from Bengaluru city. The moment I entered the ashrama, to the left stood a relic of the past: a mud hut with a thatched roof, a symbol of the struggles Susheelamma faced when she established it in 1975.

Susheelamma believes in Kayakave Kailasa, finding joy in relentless work. Apart from running the ashrama, she actively participates in several literary campaigns and people's movements to drive social change

She believes in '*Kayakave Kailasa*', finding utmost joy in relentless work. Her efforts are not limited to running the ashrama, a challenge in itself, but extends to driving social change. She actively involves in literacy campaigns, women's movements and broader people's movements.

The vermicompost project

As the second wave of Covid-19 receded in 2022, I visited the ashrama with my husband. I sat with Amma, then 83, as she enthusiastically explained her new vermicompost project.

She said, "During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Iruliga tribal communities in Magadi taluk faced severe problems of hunger and survival. They do not own land and work on others' fields." The Ashrama had helped them the previous year with seeds, manure and pesticides so they could cultivate ragi, ensuring at least basic food security. However, income from cultivation on leased land was not sufficient to support their families and

S G Susheelamma guides a child at the Sumangali Seva Ashrama.

their children's education.

The project was conceived as a way to create a self-sustaining source of income for tribal families. Vermicomposting, an eco-friendly process that uses earthworms to convert waste into nutrient-rich organic fertiliser and soil conditioner, was identified as a viable solution with strong demand. The Ashrama planned to construct three vermi pits for each family. "Each pit is estimated to produce one tonne of vermicompost in 35 days. With three pits per family, they can earn between Rs 20,000 and Rs 30,000 a month," she explained.

The Ashrama had already surveyed villages in Magadi taluk and identified 25 tribal women. It had also prepared a detailed estimate for constructing pits with protective covers to safeguard the earthworms from birds.

Participating in Amma's initiatives has always been a privilege. "Can I sponsor a pit?" I asked eagerly. In April 2023, I received a call from Amma saying that funds had been raised to construct three pits each for 25 Iruliga tribal women.

This year's conferment of the Padma Shri on Susheelamma is a tribute to her boundless compassion, which remains undiminished even at 87.

The Sumangali Seva Ashrama in Bengaluru. PHOTOS BY AUTHOR

A temple complex in a valley of springs

Vijay Mahantesh Papanal writes about the historic Mahakuta, known for its architecturally elaborate temples and annual chariot festival

Tucked between lush green hills forming a valley, Mahakuta, close to Badami in Bagalkot district, is a historical place with a mystic aura.

The temple complex located here is a group of shrines dedicated to Shiva, built by the Chalukyas of Badami between the 6th and 8th centuries. Among the many temples, the Mahakuteshwara and Mallikarjuna temples stand out for their elaborate design. Both the temples are built in the Dravidian style of architecture. The other small temples in the Mahakuta temple complex are built in the Phamsana and Vesara styles of architecture. The Phamsana and the Kadamba-Nagara styles incorporate pyramidal *shikhara* structure. Vesara is a fusion of Dravidian and Rekha Nagara styles of architecture.

The Mahakuteshwara temple features a pure Dravida-style *shikhara* (tower), crowned by an octagonal *stupi* (the topmost dome), and stands on a high raised plinth with an intricately carved *Vritta Kumuda* (circular structure in the plinth). The design of the corner pilasters in the sanctum makes the Mallikarjuna temple unique.

The name Mahakuta literally translates to 'the great congregation', reflecting the sacred clustering of Shiva temples around a large central pond fed by perennial underground springs.

The Mahakuta temple with Dravidian Shikhara architecture. PHOTOS BY AUTHOR

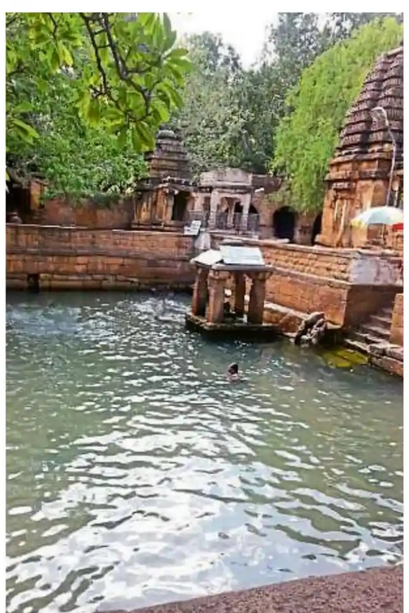
The chariot festival of Mahakuteshwara, the presiding deity of Mahakuta and the family deity of the Chalukyas of Badami, is held during April-May every year. During this time, the temple complex transforms into a centre of devotion.

The chariot festival is held here on the full moon day of Vaishaka Shuddha Paurnami, locally known as *Aagi Hunnime.* Mythologically, it is believed that on this day Goddess Ganga bathed in the Kashi Tirtha, a small *pushkarani* at Mahakuta, to purify herself after absolving devotees of their sins.

The pillar inscription

The earliest epigraphical record mentioning the presiding deity, Mahakuteshwara, is the fluted Mahakuta pillar inscription. Called 'Dharmajayasthambha', the pillar was erected around 595–596 CE by Mangalesha who ascended the Badami Chalukyan throne in 591-592 CE. Incidentally, the inscription was also issued on the Vaishaka Shuddha Paurnami day.

The inscription was sculpted by two brothers Daata and Aana, sons of a merchant called Pubesha from Aihole. This pillar was first examined and studied by J F Fleet in 1881, and has been kept in Vijayapura (Bijapur) Archeological Survey of India (ASI) museum (established in the late 1800s) since 1920. In the lines 13 and 14 of the inscription, Mangalesha states that he is donating the wealth acquired from defeating the Kalachuri king to the 'Deva-Droni' of the Makuteshwaranatha temple. He further states that this temple had already received donations during the reigns of his father, Pulikeshi-I, and his elder brother, Kirtivarma-I. This suggests that the temple referred to in the inscription is the same Mahakuteshwara temple of the present day, where worship has continued uninterrupted for the last 1,500 years.



The Shiva Pushkarani at Mahakuta with the pavilion holding Chaturmukha Linga.

The temple debate

Though Mangalesha's pillar inscription mentions the 'Makuteshwaranatha' temple, late 20th-century scholars such as Gary Tartakov and Carol Bolon have proposed that the temple referred to in the inscription could be a different one. While Gary Tartakov has argued that it could be the Bananti Gudi located on the southeastern side of the complex, Carol Bolon has proposed that it could be the Cliff Temple, which she identifies as Hire Mahakuteshwara.

However, many scholars argue that both the Bananti Gudi and the Cliff Temple do not conform to the rich temple description found in the inscription. Scholars such as Dr S Rajashekar, Dr K V Ramesh, Dr K V Soundara Rajan and Dr Shrinivas Padigar have demonstrated that the temple mentioned in Mangalesha's pillar inscription is the same Mahakuteshwara temple.

The Mahakuteshwara temple, supported by Mangalesha's pillar inscription, is considered one of South India's oldest Shiva temples and, arguably, one of the continuously worshipped Shiva shrines. It has an uninterrupted history spanning a millennium and a half, a rare continuity that underscores the temple's antiquity.

Bengaluru Thursday, April 30, 2026 Pages 18 Vol 79 No 119 ₹7

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The Power of Good

Sunrisers top batting carnage

Klassen, Head half-centuries lay Rickleton's ton to waste

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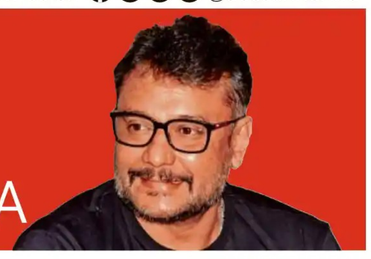
State

Darshan files fresh plea in Supreme Court for bail P.3A



World

Two Jewish men stabbed in London terror attack P.11

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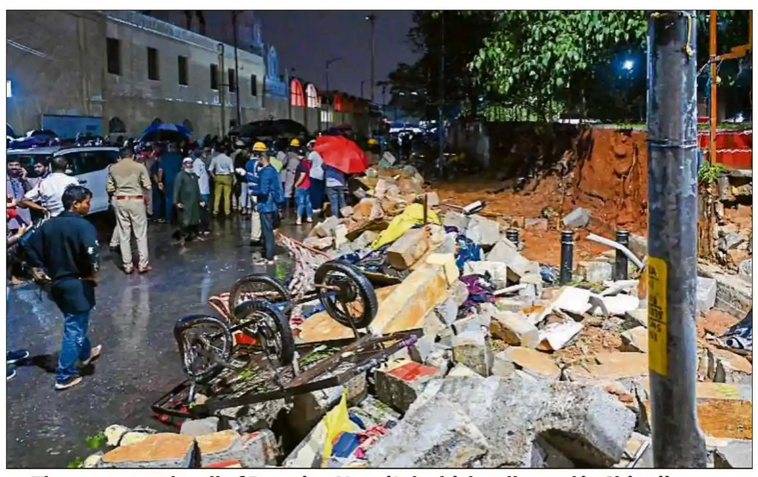
Girl not allowed to write CET in hijab P.3A



The compound wall of Bowring Hospital which collapsed in Shivajinagar killing seven people in Bengaluru on Wednesday. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

A water-logged road in Palace Guttahalli. DH PHOTO/M S MANJUNATH

Rain: 7 dead as Bowring Hospital wall collapses

CM raps officials, locals vent anger over negligence

BENGALURU, DHNS

Seven people, including a six-year-old girl, were killed and nine others injured after a compound wall at Bowring and Lady Curzon Hospital in Shivajinagar collapsed on Wednesday evening. The incident was triggered by heavy rain and additional construction load on the decades-old structure.

The wall — about 12 feet high and one foot thick — gave way around 5.45 pm, trapping more than a dozen people.

Some of the victims were vendors who had set up stalls on the footpath, while others were shoppers or passersby who had taken shelter from the rain. Local residents rushed the victims to the adjacent hospital before rescue workers arrived, officials said.

"The rain began around 5 pm and there was a thunderstorm. Around 5.45 pm, the wall collapsed all of a sudden. The bodies had to be pulled from under the rubble. Many people were injured; some may have lost their legs," a vendor and eyewitness told *DH*.

Deputy commissioner of police (East) Vikram Amathe said the deceased included two women, four men and a girl child. Three of the seven injured are Kerala natives who were visiting Bengaluru, he added.

CM Siddaramaiah visited the victims in the hospital and announced a compensation of Rs 5 lakh for the kin of each deceased while PM Narendra Modi announced an ex gratia of Rs 2 lakh each for the next of kin of the deceased, and Rs 50,000 for the injured.

Visibly angry, he pulled up the hospital staff and Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) officials for alleged negligence. He directed GBA officials to submit a detailed enquiry report into the circumstances that led to the incident, to fix responsibility, and to take appropriate action against those found negligent.

Bengaluru police commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh told reporters all debris had been cleared from the site.

Rescue operations were delayed because four fire tenders were stuck in traffic due to fallen trees in the surrounding area, hampering access to the site during the critical initial minutes.

Emergency services received as many as 27 distress calls within seven minutes following the collapse, indicating the scale of panic.

▸ Bowring Hospital, Page 4
Full coverage on Page 3

Pearl-like pellets strewn on the footpath as a hailstorm lashed Bengaluru on Wednesday. DH PHOTO/KRISHNAKUMAR P S

Wettest April day in city

A powerful hailstorm struck the city on Wednesday with the Met office recording 110 mm of rain, breaking the record for the wettest April day. Winds with speeds of 75 kmph swept the city. "The hailstorm is due to convective activity caused by elevated heat," N Puviarasan, head of IMD's Bengaluru Meteorological Centre said. P3

Exit polls predict BJP in Bengal, Assam; UDF in Kerala

DMK alliance likely to keep Tamil Nadu; incumbent NDA in Puducherry

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Exit polls on Wednesday placed the BJP on the winning side in Assembly elections in two states, predicting Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamool Congress' exit from power in West Bengal and a stronger emergence of the saffron party in Assam by bagging more than two-thirds seats.

The predictions also brought some cheer to the Congress, projecting victory for the party-led United Democratic Front (UDF) in Kerala after a gap of ten years, but without a resounding victory over the CPM-led Left Democratic Front (LDF).

In Tamil Nadu, MK Stalin-led DMK alliance is likely to get the better of the AIADMK-BJP coalition and actor Vijay-led TVK.

The surprise in the pack was the Axis My India poll as it put the TVK on the driver seat ahead of the DMK and the AIADMK coalitions in a possible hung Assembly in the southern state.

In Puducherry, the exit polls preferred the incumbent AINRC-AIADMK-BJP coalition over the Congress-DMK alliance.

These are predictions only and there were several instances in the past when exit polls proved wrong.

In Bengal, of the six exit polls, only one — People's Pulse — gave the Trinamool Congress, which has been in power since 2011, a shot at power with 177-187 out of 294 seats.

The half-way mark is 148 and in the five other polls, the BJP is predicted to get 142 to 175 seats.

Bengal witnessed 92-93% turnout in the elections conducted in two phases based on a voter list that saw a massive pruning after a Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, and it is to be seen how it has impacted the results.

Trinamool sources rejected the predictions, claiming that their assessment is that they were getting a "historic" over 230 seats this time.

The poll by Matrize gave the BJP 146-171 seats while Chanakya Strategies put the number at 142-171 as against Trinamool's predicted seats of 125-140 and 130-140 seats, respectively. P-Marq gave the BJP 150-175 seats, the highest range among polls, while Trinamool is likely to bag 118-138. Poll Diary gave the BJP 142-171 while Praja Polls put it at 150-60 as against 99-127 and 85-110, respectively, for its rival.

All the seven exit polls gave the BJP a resounding victory in Assam, with seats ranging between 82 and 101 in a House of 126.

The Congress-led Opposition alliance is likely to get 22-40 seats while the AIUDF is predicted not to do well. 'Axis My India' predicted the BJP to win 88-100 seats while JVC's number was 88-101 and Vote Vibe's 90-100.

▸ Exit polls, Page 5

PREDICTIONS

With elections to 4 states and one UT getting over, agencies have released exit poll results

WEST BENGAL (294 seats)

	Chanakya Strategies	Matrize	PMarq
TMC	130-140	125-140	118-138
BJP	142-171	146-161	150-175
Cong	03-05	-	02-06
Left	-	-	-
Others	06-10	06-10	

TAMIL NADU (234 seats)

	Axis My India	Matrize	PMarq
DMK+	92-110	122-132	125-145
AIADMK+	22-32	87-100	65-85
TVK	98-120	10-12	16-26
Others	-	0-06	02-06

KERALA (140 seats)

	Axis My India	Matrize	Chanakya Strategies
UDF	78-90	70-75	72-80
LDF	49-62	60-65	58-64
BJP	0-03	03-05	-
Others	-	-	03-07

ASSAM (126 seats)

	Axis My India	Matrize	Chanakya Strategies
BJP	88-100	85-95	88-98
Cong	24-36	25-32	22-32
Others	0-3	06-12	03-05

PUDUCHERRY (30 seats)

	Axis My India	People's Pulse	Praja Polls
AINRC+	16-20	16-19	19-25
Cong+	06-8	10-12	06-10
TVK	02-8	-	-
Others	-	01-02	-

92.4% turnout, sporadic violence during last phase of Bengal poll

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
KOLKATA, DHNS

The second and final phase of polling for the West Bengal Assembly elections on Wednesday witnessed a high turnout, with 92.41% of the 3.21 crore voters exercising their franchise in 142 constituencies, although lakhs were deleted from the voters' list over the past few months during the contentious Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls.

The 152 constituencies that went to the polls in the first phase on April 23 had witnessed a record 93.19% turnout. The Election Commission stated that the two phases of polling in the state have seen the highest ever participation of voters since Independence.

The EC received demands for repolling in 77 polling booths in four constituencies in South 24 Parganas district, mostly related to alleged tampering with the Electronic Voting Machines. Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Manoj Agarwal said repolling could be ordered in the booths where allegations of EVM tampering would be found to be true.

▸ Bengal, Page 5

Security personnel at the site of a protest in Kolkata. PTI

Trump warns Iran to 'get smart soon', accept nuclear deal

TEHRAN, AFP: President Donald Trump warned Tehran on Wednesday that it should "get smart soon" and capitulate to Washington's demands for tight controls on its nuclear programme, as a US naval blockade turned the screws on Iran's economy.

The US could extend its naval blockade of Iran for months more, oil executives were told in a meeting with Trump, an official said, after press reports that he had rejected Iran's latest proposed deal to reopen the Strait of Hormuz.

"Iran can't get their act together... They better get smart soon," Trump posted on his social media platform, above a mocked-up picture of himself toting a rifle in front of explosions wrecking a desert fortress and the slogan: "No more Mr. Nice Guy!"

According to the administration official, speaking on condition of anonymity, Trump discussed with the oil executives "steps we could take to continue the current blockade for months if needed and minimise impact on American consumers".

▸ Trump warns, Page 4

Image posted by US President Trump on his Truth Social handle.

Sowjanya rape-murder case: SC seeks govt report on plea for fresh investigation

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Wednesday directed the Karnataka government to file a detailed report about the steps it proposes to take regarding a plea seeking re-investigation of the 2012 rape and murder of 17-year-old Sowjanya in Dharmasthala.

A bench of Justices Sanjay Kumar and K Vinod Chandran also directed Karnataka's Additional Advocate General Avishkar Singhvi to provide protection to the witnesses as senior advocates Shobha Gupta, Anand Sanjay M Nuli and Shekhar G Devasa, appearing for the victim's family, claimed that a number of witnesses in the case had died under mysterious circumstances.

On June 16, 2023, the trial court acquitted the accused, stating that the prosecution failed to prove the case beyond a reasonable doubt and further directed to constitute a acquittal committee for initiating needful action against erring officers.

Singhvi said the matter was initially probed by the CID, then transferred to the CBI, which filed the chargesheet.

"We want you to file an affidavit stating whether you can form an SIT to look into the matter all over again. There was a possibility of looking into the role of the other accused. Give us a clear stand," the bench told Singhvi.

The counsel said, fortunately, the victim's belongings are still preserved, and a DNA test can be done.

The court fixed the matter for consideration on July 14.

In 2024, the complainant filed a writ petition before the Karnataka High Court seeking re-investigation by CBI and to direct the top police officer in Bengaluru to pass necessary orders as per directions of the sessions court's judgment against the erring officers.

On August 20, 2024, the Karnataka High Court dismissed the writ petition, while observing that the acquittal of the accused raised a begging question that there must be somebody else and this definitely demands re-investigation.

No legislative vacuum on hate speech: SC

The Supreme Court on Wednesday said the existing criminal law framework adequately addressed hate speech and that there was no "legislative vacuum" warranting its intervention. Details on Page 9

EARNING ADMISSION

Income certificate scam? 'Low-income' students took costly seats

RASHMI BELUR
BENGALURU, DHNS

Hundreds of students from families earning under Rs 8 lakh per annum paid exorbitant fees for management quota seats in professional courses last year, authorities have found ahead of the upcoming admission season.

This has raised questions on possible lapses by revenue authorities while issuing income certificates.

OBC families with an annual income exceeding Rs 8 lakh are considered belonging to the 'creamy layer' category and ineligible to avail of reservation benefits. Currently, the 'creamy layer' rule does not apply to SC/STs and Category-1 of the OBC. It applies to OBC categories 2A, 2B, 3A and 3B.

In 2025-26, more than 2,400 students submitted income certificates to claim reservation. However, they later opted for expensive seats under private, management and NRI categories. Seats under private, management and NRI categories cost between Rs 30 lakh and Rs 1 crore for medical courses. For engineering, this ranges from Rs 15 lakh to Rs 80 lakh.

"Our concern is that when income certificates are issued to well-off students, it results in injustice to deserving beneficiaries. This is prevalent among students coming from agricultural families. We're planning to write to the higher-ups in the revenue department to prevent this malpractice," said a senior official at the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA).

The KEA itself has no mechanism to check the authenticity of income certificates. In case of complaints, the KEA writes to the departments concerned for verification. There have been instances where a few students lost their seats for submitting fake certificates.

"We don't deny that students may have borrowed loans to pay for expensive seats, but that number is very less. The issuance of income certificates must be streamlined. Those earning more than Rs 8 lakh annually shouldn't get income certificates," the KEA official said.

Last year, more than 140 candidates belonging to the Economically Weaker Section (EWS) chose PG medical seats under the management and NRI quotas with a tuition fee of Rs 30 lakh to Rs 1 crore a year.

"This also raised questions about the credibility of EWS certificates. We suspect similar discrepancies when it comes to issuing income certificates in the state," the official said.

Admission to professional courses in 2025-26 academic year

Category	Seats		
	Pvt	Mgmt	NRI
2A	528	196	4
2B	288	161	7
3A	513	170	3
3B	452	161	4
1	125	41	0
SC	147	78	0
ST	32	11	0

PICTURE FOR REPRESENTATIONAL PURPOSE.

Quickly

Oil firms losing Rs 18/litre on diesel

Oil marketing companies (OMCs) like Indian Oil and Bharat Petroleum are selling diesel at a loss of Rs 18 per litre and petrol at Rs 14 litre, despite the recent reduction in excise duty, rating agency ICRA said on Wednesday.
Details on Page 12

Student's suicide stirs unrest in Hubballi

The suicide of a BSc student following alleged police harassment has stirred unrest in Hubballi-Dharwad. Aditya, the student, was detained on Saturday on charges of consuming ganja. However, reports later confirmed that he had not consumed ganja. Three police personnel have been suspended.
Details on Page 3B

Three killed as bus rams tanker, lorry in Udupi

Three people - including the crew of a private bus - were killed and several students injured after the bus carrying college students rammed into two stationary vehicles on NH 66 near Trasi-Maravanthe on Wednesday.

Cognizant to cut jobs as part of restructuring

Cognizant, which has the largest presence in India, plans to reduce workforce as the company has introduced the Project Leap programme. Though the company did not specify numbers, it would be across verticals and geographies.
Details on Page 12

Electricity consumption in April up 20%

Power consumption in Karnataka in April has increased drastically compared to previous years. According to data accessed by DH, between April 1 and April 26, Karnataka has recorded consumption of 9,101 MUs of power, highest in the last five years and close to 20% more than what was consumed in the same period in 2025.
Details on Page 4

GBA chief inspects Gandhi Bazaar

Flags enforcement gaps amid traffic, encroachments

BENGALURU, DHNS

M Maheshwar Rao

Residents say the visit signals action on civic concerns, but weak enforcement allows violations to persist despite clear guidelines being issued.

Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao inspected Gandhi Bazaar Main Road to address gaps in parking discipline, cleanliness, and traffic flow after persistent civic complaints.

Bengaluru Central City Corporation Commissioner Harish Kumar joined the on-ground inspection, which examined the gap between the redesigned street's intent and its current condition.

The visit followed *DH's* April 25 report on continuing issues at Gandhi Bazaar.

Guruprasad Rotti, Secretary of Heritage Basavanagudi Residents Welfare Forum, said the GBA commissioner stressed the need for strict parking regulations against footpath parking and ensured vendors operate only within designated zones while keeping the area free of garbage.

He also stressed that smoother traffic flow is essential, especially for emergency vehicles to pass through the stretch on time.

Citizen groups raised concerns over haphazard parking and encroachments, calling for consistent monitoring. The inspection reviewed pedestrian movement and compliance with the new street design.

The GBA commissioner directed officials to maintain traffic discipline, protect public utilities, and ensure cleanliness.

Residents said that while the visit signals a response to civic concerns, enforcement remains weak, with violations continuing despite clear guidelines.

Petrol bomb-like blast video: FIR filed against ex-Bigg Boss contestant

BENGALURU, DHNS: Kaggalipura police have registered an FIR against former Bigg Boss contestant Rajat over a video showing a petrol bomb-like explosion filmed at Vaderahalli on Kanakapura Road.

A senior police officer said the video, which surfaced on social media, shows an explosive object resembling a petrol bomb being ignited and hurled, triggering a blast.

Police conducted a spot inspection to verify the location and the circumstances under which the footage was shot. After a preliminary inquiry, the matter was escalated to senior officers, who directed legal action.

Based on the instructions, an FIR has been registered against Rajat and others involved in filming the video.

Kaggalipura police said Rajat is absconding after the FIR was registered, and a team has been formed to take him into custody.

RESTORATION DRIVE

Earthmovers work on the dried bed of Ulsoor Lake during a large-scale desilting and restoration project, aimed at reviving the waterbody. AFP

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Lecture and book exhibition: Organised by Seshadripuram First Grade College; Banjagere Jayaprakash and Ravikumar to take part; College premises, Yelahanka Satellite Town; 10.30 am.

Felicitation: Organised by Bengaluru Advocates' Association; Satish Jarakiholi and Krishna S Dixit to be honoured; Shashikiran Shetty, Vivek Subbareddy, BS Rekha and others to participate; City Civil Court premises; from 12.30 pm onwards.

CULTURAL

Drama festival: Organised by Kaajana; GK Srinivasa Murthy to inaugurate; SLN Swamy, NL Shantha Kumar and others to take part; Kalagrama, Mallathalli; 4 pm.

Bharatanatya performance: Students of Vishrutha School of Performing Arts; Directed by Vasantha Lakshmi; Nanjangud Raghavendra Swamy Mutt, Jayanagar; 5.15 pm.

Awards ceremony: Presentation of 'Karnataka Kalashri' Awards; Organised by Karnataka Sangeetha Nritya Academy; Shivaraj Tangadagi, PC Mohan and others to participate; Ravindra Kalakshetra, JC Road; 6 pm.

Invites to be published in this column should be sent to: **incitytoday@deccanherald.co.in.** Please note that hard copies will not be accepted

Buddha Purnima: Meat ban tomorrow

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Greater Bengaluru Authority has announced a ban on animal slaugtter in slaughterhouses and the sale of meat in shops on Friday in observance of Buddha Purnima.

Orders issued

Deputy Director (Animal Husbandry) issued the orders on Wednesday.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE

1.	Tender Notice No & Date	HQ_MAS_IPMPLS_Balstn_01 Dated: 27.04.2026
2.	Name of the Tender	**"Provision of Telecom assets with IP-MPLS based technology at Balance stations of Southern Railway"**
3.	Tender value in Crores of Rupees	₹ 18,97,01,388.80
4.	Bid Security (EMD) in Lakhs of Rupees	₹ 37,94,000.00
5.	Validity offer	90 days from the date of opening of tender
6.	Pre-Bid Conference	07.05.2026 @ 11.00 Hrs
7.	Closing Date & Time	29.05.2026 @ 15.00 hrs
8.	Period of completion	09 (Nine) Months.

Note: The detailed Tender Notice, Tender document along with terms & conditions and if any corrigendum to the tender is issued can be accessed through (**www.ireps.gov.in**).

Dy.CSTE/Tele/HQ

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
APPLICATION NOTIFICATION NO. 565/STBA/04-03/2026

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites sealed applications for engagement of station Ticket booking agents (STBA) at the following railway station over Bengaluru Division of south western railway for issuing of Unreserved/General Tickets through unreserved ticket system (UTS) on commission basis for a period of Three (03) years:

Sl.No.	Name of the Station	Section Code	Station Category
1.	Banaswadi	BAND	NSG-5
2.	Channarayapatna	CNPA	
3.	Shravanabelagola	SBGA	

Last date for Submission of Application : **Upto 10.00 hrs to 15.00 hrs on 01.06.2026**

For details log on : www.swr.indianrailways.gov.in

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Bengaluru

PUB/71/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2026-27

Download the **RailOne** app for easy ticket booking, PNR status, and more railway services.

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SOUTHERN RAILWAY
Chennai Division (Mechanical Branch)

GEM Bid No. GEM/2026/B/7431472 Dated 13/04/2026

Corrigendum No.01 Dated 28.04.2026

Name of the work: **Mechanized cleaning at Tambaram Railway Station on Manpower basis for 1461 Days and Tambaram Colony on outcome basis for 1253 Days.**
Corrigendum: 01

Sl.No	Details	Existing	To be read as
1	Instruction to bidder uploaded in GeM Bid Document, in which from Page no. 67 to 83 (Header section).	Tender Document of Comprehensive cleaning works of Moore Market Complex and Moore Market Sub-urban Terminal.	**Tender Document of Mechanized cleaning at Tambaram Railway Station on Manpower basis for 1461 Days and Tambaram Colony on outcome basis for 1253 Days.**
2	In Instruction to bidder uploaded in GeM Bid Document, the page number for Annexure L is mentioned as Page 68 of 83 **should be read as Page 67 of 83.**		

Tender closing date and time : 05/05/2026 at 17.00 Hrs

Tender opening date and time : 05/05/2026 at 17.30 hrs

Sr. Divisional Mechanical Engineer
Chennai Division/Chennai-600 003

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No.: Y/E.29/2026-27/09 Dated 21.04.2026

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tender for the following work.

Name of work	Approx.Value
Provision of changing room with toilet facility for lady Station Masters/Points-women.	Rs. 18,01,480.65/-

Last date for Submission of bids : **Upto 11:00 hrs on 12.05.2026**

For details log on : www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer, Mysuru

PUB/73/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2026-27

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SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work

Publication of E-Tender Notice No.: B/TRD.2026-27/04 Dated : 22-04-2026

Item of work	Approx. Value
Provision of nylon mesh on TTC and portals for preventing bird nest in Bengaluru Division.	Rs. 53.36.100.00

Publication of E-Tender Notice No.: B/TRD.2026-27/05 Dated : 22-04-2026

Item of work	Approx. Value
[i] OHE modifications in connection with proposed capacity enhancement of SGT Wagon depot to meet demand of freight loading of 3000MT target by 2027. **[ii]** OHE modifications in connection with proposed construction of new IOH Shed for NMG Maintenance at SGT yard. **[iii]** Construction of new pitline in AC Loco Trip Shed at SGT-TRD works	Rs. 5,26,82,274.76

Publication of E-Tender Notice No.: B/TRD.2026-27/07 Dated : 22-04-2026

Item of work	Approx. Value
[i] OHE modifications in connection with replacing Low HT shelter of PF 7&8, provision of shelter in open area between second entry building and platform entrance including granite flooring **[ii]** OHE modifications in connection with Augmentation of AC Loco Trip Shed at Bengaluru. **[iii]** Provision of OHE for pit line no.1 at Bengaluru yard. **[iv]** Conversion of tramway OHE to conventional at Bengaluru yard **[v]** BIDOHE modifications in connection with provision of proposed Rd-06 (Spur Line of 686m) with shunting neck of 650m towards Bengaluru end duly dismantling existing Goods unloading platform adjacent to Rd-5 **[vi]** OHE modification in connection with proposed extension of PF-1 and PF-2 for a length of 150 mtrs and 5 mtr width at Krishnadevaraya station in Bengaluru - Yeliyur section **[vii]** OHE Modification of shifting Y TSS down line PTFE **[viii]** Bengaluru Division- OHE modifications in connection with construction of Foot Over Bridge (FOB) at Km. 55/200 at Chanapattna (CPT) yard near LC No.47 (Gangway:32mx3m, staircase:2x20m) for pedestrian movement (4T crossing)	Rs. 3,59,17,099.69

Last date for submission of bids for above Tenders is:Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 14-05-2026

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer / TRD Bengaluru

PUB/66/AAF/PRB/SWR/2026-27

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CENTRAL RAILWAY
SOLAPUR DIVISION

ENGINEERING WORK

Divisional Railway Manager (Works), Central Railway, Solapur on behalf of President of India, invites e-tender from the reputed firms/contractor for the following works: **(1) Tender Notice No.:** 12-20226-SrDENS. **Name of work:** Repairs and maintenance of garden in DRM office Campus at Solapur (Entrance heritage garden in front of old ADRM chamber behind Old conference hall), A/93, A/94, A/95, A/92, B/175, RB-IV, 122/A&B, RB-IV 121/A&B, RB-IV/208, RB-IV/207, F/37/A&B, F/36/A&B, C@ 47 & 47@A&B, C@ 47'47@A&B (CRMS office), NRMU office, RB-V/136, 137, RBIV/138, 139, 150, RB-V/146, 147, 149, 155, 156 in Officers colony, Dr. Pradhan Hospital garden & in front of station, garden in officers rest house and near swimming pool in Siddheshwar officers club, garden in Track machine depot, RPF barrack, C&W coaching complex, Running room, Railway hospital garden, Ganesh hall colony (Maintenance of garden for two years). **Approximate Cost of the work :** ₹ 12029354.48, **Earnest Money :** ₹ 240600.00. **(2) Tender Notice No.:** 13-20226-SrDENS. **Name of work:** (i) TWR work in SUR-WADI section from Km 584.8 to Km 593.6 total 8.8 Km under ADEN/KLBG sub-division in SUR division & (ii) Execution of flash but welding by MFWP with 52 Kg & 60 Kg rail at various locations under Sr.DEN/S/SUR section. **Approximate Cost of the work :** ₹ 51261705.37, **Earnest Money :** ₹ 1025200.00. **(3) Tender Notice No.:** 14-20226-SrDENS. **Name of work:** TBSR work at Bridge no. 596/1 (DN) in SUR-Wadi section (Total 1040 Nos). **Approximate Cost of the work :** ₹ 31075076.42, **Earnest Money :** ₹ 621500.00. **(4) Tender Notice No.:** 15-20226-SrDENS. **Name of work:** 1. Construction of new PWI office depot with store facilities at GUR under ADEN/KLBG sub-division. 2. Construction of PWI office and store & IOW office with store at Wadi under ADEN/KLBG sub-division. 3. Building work for construction of Minor TRD depot at wadi station under ADEN/KLBG. **Approximate Cost of the work :** ₹ 58287025.01, **Earnest Money :** ₹ 1165800.00. **Completion Period :** 24 Months for Sl. No. 1 & 12 Months for Sl. No. 2, 3 & 4. **Maintenance Period :** NA for Sl. No. 1, 2 & 3 and 24 Months for Sl. No. 4. **Tender opening date :** 18.05.2026 for Sl. No. 1, 2 & 4 and 20.05.2026 for Sl. No. 3. The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website frequently before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/ corrigenda issued for this tender. Website: **www.ireps.gov.in** EXP-14

CORRIGENDUM NO. 5
Corrigendum No. 5 for Tender Notice No.: DY.CEE/CON/RE-II/MLG/01/2026; **dtd.:** 04-02-2026 **against Tender No.** EL-CON-MLG-09-2025-26-D-K.

SN	Website Tender Notice detail before corrigendum, **EXISTING**	After the corrigendum in suppression of previous details, **TO BE READ AS**
1	**Closing of Tender:-** 11-05-2026, 11:00 Hrs. **Physical submission of Mandatory Document listed in clause 2.11.2:-** 15-05-2026, 11:00 Hrs. **Opening of tender**:- 18-05-2026, 16:00 hrs	**Closing of Tender:-** 30-05-2026, 11:00 Hrs. **Physical submission of Mandatory Document listed in clause 2.11.2:-** 05-06-2026, 11:00 Hrs. **Opening of tender**:- 08-06-2026, 16:00 hrs

N.B.: Other terms and conditions of tender will remain same. For Detail please visit N.F. Railway website **www.ireps.gov.in**

AEE/CON/HQ, Maligaon

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Construction Organization
Serving Customers With A Smile

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
NOTIFICATION
Hubballi, the 21st April, 2026

S.O. 1986(E) - In the exercise of the powers conferred by clause (6) of section 20F and clause 7A of South Western Railway, Road Safety Projects, Hubballi) hereby authorizes the officers mentioned in column (4) of the table below as 'Competent Authority' and the officers mentioned in column (5) of the table below as 'Arbitrator' to perform the functions as such authority under the said Act with effect from date of publication of this notification in the official gazette in respect of Special Railway Projects mentioned in column (2) relating to districts mentioned in column (3) of the table below for Land Acquisition required for the public purpose.

SN	Name of the Project	District	Competent Authority	Arbitrator
1	Bangalore city Jolarpettai - Construction of Road Over Bridge (ROB) in lieu of LC No.112 at km 273/100-200 between Kamsamudram and Bisanattam station.	Kolar	Assistant Commissioner, Kolar	Regional Commissioner, Bengaluru

[F.No.SWR/W.352/RSP/Land/CALA/2026]

For details log on : https://egazette.gov.in

NINGAPPA CHANDAPPA CHALUWADI, Deputy Chief Engineer/Road Over Bridgs, Road Safety Projects/ Hubballi

PUB/74/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2026-27

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SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E- Tender Notice No. SWR-RSP-LC-01-162-ROB-08 Dated: 22-04-2026

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Name of work	Approx. Value
Sub Work- 1:- Construction of 2 lane ROB in lieu of LC No.1 as 1X30.00m Composite Girder (Railway Span) + 3x18.71m PSC Girder + 1x10.5m RCC Slab (Towards Amaravathy Nagar) + 2x18.71m PSC Girder + 1x10.5m RCC Slab (Towards Desihalli) (Approach Span) + RE Blocks and Retaining Wall (Approach Portion)) at km 1/800-900 along with LHS between Bangarapet-Coromandel stations of Bangarapet-Marikuppam section of Bengaluru Division. (Composite work) **Sub Work- 2:-** Construction of 2 lane ROB in lieu of LC No.162 as 1x36.00m Composite Girder (Railway Span) + 3x18.71m PSC Girder+1x10.5m RCC Slab (Towards Kolar) + 2x18.71m PSC Girder+1x10.5m RCC Slab (Towards Bangarpet) (Approach Span) + RE Blocks and Retaining Wall (Approach Portion) at km 144/900-145/000 and construction of pedestrian subway between Bangarapet-Kolar stations of Yelahanka -Bangarapet section of Bengaluru Division. (Composite work).	Rs. 61,83,61,564.93

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 21-05-2026**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Chief Administrative Officer (Construction) Road Safety Projects, Hubballi

PUB/67/AAF/PRB/SWR/2026-27

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कार्यालय कार्यपालन यंत्री लोक निर्माण विभाग संभाग मुरैना
सूबात रोड, मुरैना (म.प्र.)

क्रमांक ...../निविदा/नि.सू.क्र. 02/2026–27 मुरैना दिनांक .....

निविदा विज्ञप्ति

मध्यप्रदेश लोक निर्माण विभाग में केन्द्रीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली के अन्तर्गत पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से मध्यप्रदेश के राज्यपाल की ओर से निम्नलिखित कार्यों हेतु सड़क एवं पुल कार्यों की दर अनुसूची प्रभावशील दिनांक 11.04.2025 पर निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना जारी होने के दिनांक तक समस्त संशोधनों सहित ई–टेण्डरिंग पद्धिति द्वारा ऑनलाइन निविदाएँ अपेन्डिक्स 2.10 में निहित शर्तों के अनुरूप आमंत्रित की जाती हैं, जिसकी विस्तृत निविदा सूचना एवं कार्यों का विवरण वेब–साइट **http://mptenders.gov.in** पर देखी जा सकती है। वेब साइट पर होने वाली तकनीकी समस्याओं हेतु विभाग जिम्मेदार नहीं होगा।

टेण्डर आई.डी. क्र.	कार्य का नाम	अनुमानित लागत (रूपयों में)	अर्नेस्ट मनी डिपोजिट (रूपयों में)	निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य (रु.)	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि
1	2	3	4	5	6
2026_PWDRB_502057	निर्माण कार्य सांगौली चौराहा से भजपुरा मैन स्टेट हाई–वे व्हाया कोंथरकलां मार्ग लम्बाई 14.00 कि.मी. (मय पोल शिफ्टिंग)	208539000.0 (बीस करोड पिच्यासी लाख उन्तालीस हजार)	1042695/–	50000.00 + Portal Charges	18 माह वर्षाकाल सहित
2026_PWDRB_502058	निर्माण कार्य बाग का पुरा से भोगीराम का पुरा होकर पाँचौली मार्ग लम्बाई 5.00 कि.मी. (मय पोल शिफ्टिंग)	42669000.00 चार करोड़ छब्बीस लाख उन्हत्तर हजार)	426690/–	15000.00 + Portal Charges	12 माह वर्षाकाल सहित
2026_PWDRB_502059	निर्माण कार्य बीलपुर से मल्हन का पुरा व्हाया घेर मार्ग लम्बाई 3.50 कि.मी. (मय पोल शिफ्टिंग)	32189000.00 (तीन करोड इक्कीस लाख नवासी हजार)	321890/–	15000.00 + Portal Charges	09 माह वर्षाकाल सहित
2026_PWDRB_502060	निर्माण कार्य ग्राम माता का पुरा से ग्राम भुआपुरा नहर के किनारे मैन रोड तक मार्ग लं. 3.50 कि.मी. (मय पोल शिफ्टिंग)	25604000.00 (दो करोड़ छप्पन लाख चार हजार)	256040/–	15000.00 + Portal Charges	09 माह वर्षाकाल सहित
	योग–04 कार्य	**309001000.0 (तीस करोड़ नब्बे लाख एक हजार)**			

1. ऑन लाइन टेण्डर पब्लिश दिनांक – 24.04.2026 समय 17:30 बजे
2. निविदा प्रपत्र डाउनलोड/विक्रय प्रारंभ दिनांक – 24.04.2026 समय 17:30 बजे से
3. निविदा प्रपत्र डाउनलोड/विक्रय अंतिम दिनांक – 22.05.2026 समय 17:30 बजे तक
4. ऑन लाईन बिड सबमिशन का प्रारंभ दिनांक – 24.04.2026 समय 17:30 बजे तक
5. ऑन लाईन बिड सबमिशन का अंतिम दिनांक – 22.05.2026 समय 17:30 बजे तक
6. बिड ओपनिंग दिनांक – 25.05.2026 समय 10:30 बजे

a. अनुबंध के पूर्व एवं अनुबंध अवधि में लेवर पंजीयन करना अनिवार्य होगा, निविदा की वैधता अवधि 120 दिवस होगी।
b. निविदा संबंधी संशोधन उसी टेण्डर में ऑन लाईन देखे जा सकेंगे, अतिरिक्त प्रेस नोट नहीं निकाला जावेगा।
c. सक्षम अधिकारी को निविदा को बिना कारण बताये निरस्त करने का अधिकार सुरक्षित होगा।
d. संबंधित मद में आवंटन उपलब्ध होने पर ही भुगतान हो सकेगा।
e. निविदाएँ ऑन–लाईन ही प्रस्तुत की जायें, भौतिक रूप से कोई भी दस्तावेज स्वीकार नहीं किया जावेगा।
f. शासन द्वारा समय–समय पर जारी समस्त नियम एवं संशोधन प्रभावशील होंगे।
g. निविदा के साथ संलग्न शिड्यूल में दर्शाये गये आयटमों के अतिरिक्त प्रचलित एस.ओ.आर. के समस्त आयटम के कार्य सम्मिलित माने जायेंगे।

उपरोक्त वेब–साइट ऑन लाइन भुगतान करने के उपरान्त निविदा प्रपत्र (टेंडर डॉक्यूमेंट) वेब साइट के माध्यम से प्राप्त हो सकेंगे। विस्तृत एन.आई.टी. एवं अन्य जानकारी उपरोक्त वेब साइट में देखी जा सकती है।

(अन्वेश प्रताप सिंह)
कार्यपालन यंत्री, लोक निर्माण विभाग संभाग मुरैना
फोन नं. 07532–226361

G-12163/26

Govt. of Jharkhand, Energy Department
Jharkhand Renewable Energy Development Agency (JREDA)
3rd Floor, S.L.D.C. Building, Kusai Colony, Doranda, Ranchi-834002.
Ph.: 0651-2491161, Fax: 0651-2491165, E-mail: info@jreda.com; Website: www.jreda.com

BID ADDENDUM NOTICE

JREDA has published e-Procurement Notice on 21.04.2026 under Repairing, Maintenance of all old installed Solar Power Plant whose CMC Period expired Scheme, Prospective in light of above JREDA has decided to make the addendum of Pre-bid Meeting. Date and Time of Pre-bid Meeting are as follows:-

01	08/JREDA/GCRT/CMCO/26-27	Rate Contract for Selection of Agencies for CMCO of installed Grid Connected Rooftop Solar Power Plants for 05 (Five) Years including replaceme nt of PCUs and Batteries and other components as and where required basis at Various Districts in the State	11.05.2026 (Monday) at 3.00 PM	378223

Sd/-
Director,
JREDA, Ranchi

PR 378743 Energy(26-27)#D

Govt. of Jharkhand, Energy Department
Jharkhand Renewable Energy Development Agency (JREDA)
3rd Floor, S.L.D.C. Building, Kusai Colony, Doranda, Ranchi-834002.
Ph.: 0651-2491161, Fax: 0651-2491165,
E-mail: info@jreda.com; Website: www.jreda.com

BID ADDENDUM NOTICE

JREDA has published e-Procurement Notice on 21.04.2026 under Grid Connected Rooftop Solar PV Programme (Govt. Residential Building) Scheme, Prospective in light of above JREDA has decided to make the addendum of Pre-bid Meeting. Date and Time of Pre-bid Meeting are as follows:-

01	07/JREDA/GCRT/RD/26-27	Rate Contract for Design, Manufacture, Testing, Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Grid connected Rooftop SPV Power Plants of different capacities including five years Comprehensive Maintenance Contract (CMC) on Turnkey basis on Government Residential Buildings anywhere in the state of Jharkhand.	11.05.2026 (Monday) at 12.00 PM	378224

Sd/-
Director,
JREDA, Ranchi

PR 378750 Energy (26-27)_D

Govt. of Jharkhand
Energy Department
Jharkhand Renewable Energy Development Agency (JREDA)
3rd Floor, S.L.D.C. Building, Kusai Colony, Doranda, Ranchi-834002.
Ph.: 0651-2491161, Fax: 0651-2491165,E-mail: info@jreda.com; Website: www.jreda.com

BID ADDENDUM NOTICE

JREDA has published e-Procurement Notice on 21.04.2026 under Grid Connected Rooftop Solar PV Programme (Govt. Building)/ Solar Plant Commissioning Scheme, Prospective in light of above JREDA has decided to make the addendum of Pre-bid Meeting. Date and Time of Pre-bid Meeting are as follows:-

Sl No	Tender Reference No	Nature of Work	Date and Time of Pre-bid Meeting	Previous PR No
01	02/JREDA/GCRT/RC/26-27	Rate Contract for Design, Manufacture, Testing, Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Grid connected Rooftop SPV Power Plants of different capacities including five years Comprehensive Maintenance Contract (CMC) on Turnkey basis on Government Buildings anywhere in the state of Jharkhand	11.05.2026 (Monday) at 2.00 PM	378221

Sd/-
Director,
JREDA, Ranchi

PR 378741 Energy(26-27).D

Govt. of Jharkhand
Energy Department **Jharkhand Renewable Energy Development Agency (JREDA)**
3rd Floor, S.L.D.C. Building, Kusai Colony, Doranda, Ranchi-834002.
Ph.: 0651-2491161, Fax: 0651-2491165, E-mail: info@jreda.com; Website: www.jreda.com

BID ADDENDUM NOTICE

JREDA has published e-Procurement Notice on 21.04.2026 under Solar Street Lighting System (LED Based) Scheme, Prospective in light of above JREDA has decided to make the addendum of Pre-bid Meeting. Date and Time of Pre-bid Meeting are as follows:-

01	04/JREDA/SPV/SSLS(LED)/26-27	Rate Contract for the work of Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning including 5 years Comprehensive Maintenance Contract (CMC) of 20W/30W/40W White LED based Solar Street Lighting Systems (SSLS) with Lithium Ferro Phosphate Battery including Remote Monitoring Systems (RMS) under Solar Photovoltaic Programme on Turnkey basis across the state of Jharkhand (JREDA)	08.05.2026 (Friday) at 1.00 PM	378217

PR 378747 Energy(26-27)D **Sd/- Director,JREDA, Ranchi**

Govt. of Jharkhand
Energy Department
Jharkhand Renewable Energy Development Agency (JREDA)
3rd Floor, S.L.D.C. Building, Kusai Colony, Doranda, Ranchi-834002.
Ph.: 0651-2491161, Fax: 0651-2491165, E-mail: info@jreda.com;
Website: www.jreda.com

BID ADDENDUM NOTICE

JREDA has published e-Procurement Notice on 21.04.2026 under LED Mast Light Scheme, Prospective in light of above JREDA has decided to make the addendum of Pre-bid Meeting. Date and Time of Pre-bid Meeting are as follows:-

01	05/JREDA/SHMLS/RC/26-27	Rate Contract for Design, Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning including 5 years Comprehensive Maintenance Contract (CMC) of 60 W LED based solar High Mast Lightning systems (SHMLS) including Remote Monitoring System (RMS) & Global Positioning System (GPS) with Lithium Ferro Phosphate Battery on Turnkey basis across the state of Jharkhand.	08.05.2026 (Friday) at 2.00 PM	378211

PR.NO.378740 Energy(26-27):D **Sd/- Director, JREDA, Ranchi**

Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving

Thank you for favours received
-Dr Jnanashree

Thanksgiving

Thank you infant Jesus for your blessings and all the favours received
- Lokanath & family

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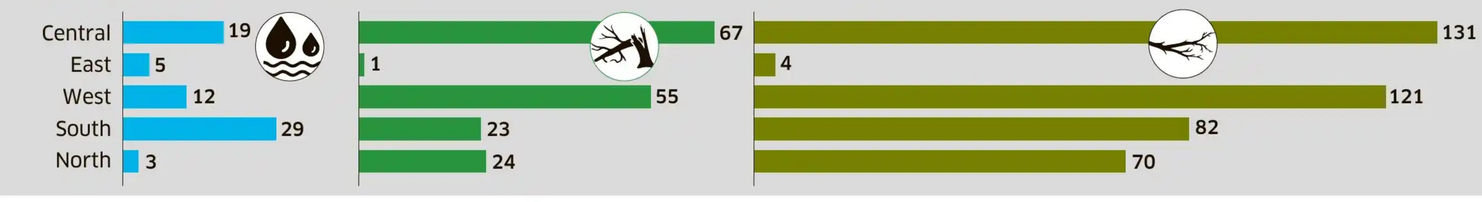
9845114560 | 9731810277

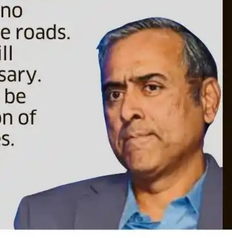
Thanksgiving

Thanks for favour and blessings received continuous to bless us.
- Shobha Cecilia & Jesuine Maria

Scale of damage raises questions over GBA preparedness despite tree-pruning drive



> All fallen trees and branches will be cleared by Thursday morning, ensuring no obstructions remain on the roads. Fire Department teams will be deployed where necessary. Separate locations should be identified for the collection of cleared trees and branches.
>
> **M MAHESHWAR RAO**
> Chief Commissioner, GBA



- Movement on key arterial roads, including those leading to the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA), slowed to a crawl.
- Silk Board Junction, Outer Ring Road, Marathahalli, Whitefield, and Hebbal were among the worst affected. Heavy congestion was reported on Ballari Road and surrounding areas.
- Waterlogging hit Old Airport Road, Ashoka Pillar, HSR Layout, Tavarekere Main Road, Domlur, Chickpet Main Road, Bannerghatta Main Road, and Sarakki Jn.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah visits the site at Bowring Hospital in Shivajinagar where a compound wall collapse, following heavy rains on Wednesday, killed seven people and injured nine. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

Strong winds and rain brought down a tree on Palace Road, making it difficult for motorists to pass. DH PHOTOS/MS MANJUNATH

Rainwater accumulated on a road near Palace Guttahalli.

Traffic congestion due to waterlogging on Ballari Road.

CIVIC BREAKDOWN: Over 750 houses inundated; residents urge opening of community halls, schools for shelter

Flooded roads, fallen trees cripple city traffic

BENGALURU, DHNS

Heavy rains on Wednesday left large parts of the city waterlogged, triggering widespread traffic jams across eastern, northern and central areas.

Vehicular movement on key arterial roads, including those leading to the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA), slowed to a crawl.

Silk Board Junction, Outer Ring Road, Marathahalli, Whitefield, and Hebbal were among the worst-affected. Heavy congestion was reported on Ballari Road and surrounding areas, Yelahanka traffic police said.

Bengaluru Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh told *DH*: "This being an emergency situation, we merged the law and order divisions with the Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) and together, they cleared fallen tree branches and ensured traffic moved slowly but in a steady flow."

A tree fall near South End Circle disrupted movement towards Lalbagh West Gate. A vehicle breakdown near Bhashyam Circle caused a jam at Sujata Junction. The BGS flyover on Mysuru Road was flooded, bringing traffic there to a standstill.

Commuters heading to the railway station and airport were also caught in the gridlock. "I was stuck in a traffic jam for three hours. Luckily, I reached the railway station just in time for my train," said Shubham, who was travelling to Delhi.

Waterlogging hit Old Airport Road, Ashoka Pillar, HSR Layout, Tavarekere Main Road, Domlur, Chickpet Main Road, Bannerghatta Main Road, and Sarakki Junction. Several underpasses and flyovers were also choked.

Fire and Emergency Services personnel, along with traffic police, were deployed at multiple locations to clear stalled vehicles. Efforts were underway to pump out water from inundated roads.

Rain, hailstorm pelt Bengaluru

Autos unavailable

D Rudramurthy, General Secretary of the Auto Rickshaw Drivers Union, said: "It was impossible for autos to navigate the city as several tree branches had fallen. We could not even drive half a kilometre. Most auto drivers feared branches falling on them and temporarily halted services."

Cabs off the roads

Nishant Rajagopal, who was trying to get to KR Puram from the CBD area, said: "Autos charged me Rs 1,000 and cabs charged me Rs 2,500 to get to my destination. I cannot afford both. There were no affordable rides available on any of the platforms."

Waterlogged metro platforms

Evening commuters faced long waits at several metro stations as rain slowed train services. Waterlogged platforms initially blocked entry, causing long queues at concourses and station gates. Although conditions later improved, stations remained crowded as many turned to the metro after struggling to find autos and cabs amid slow-moving traffic.

Grief outside, anger within: Families wait as CM's visit blocks hospital access

AMULLYA SHIVASHANKAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

Grief and disbelief hung over Bowring and Lady Curzon Hospital on Wednesday evening as families of those killed and injured in the wall collapse gathered, many unable to get answers and some unable to get through.

Anger was directed at Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, whose visit to the hospital blocked access to the emergency ward, preventing families from reaching their injured relatives.

Mohammed Suhail, whose brother Fayyaz Ahmed (39) was among the seven who died, was inconsolable. "My brother sold footwear on the footpath here for many years. He has two young children and a wife. I feel lost without him," he said.

Ahmed Khan, a relative of another victim, was direct in his frustration. "After the incident, everyone comes here to express grief, but nobody does anything to stop such incidents."

Among the dead was six-year-old Musaveer Begum, who had come to Shivajinagar with her mother to shop.

Her grandfather told *DH*: "We had spoken to her before she left. She was just six years old. We are not even able to see them because officials are there. We are heartbroken. We do not know about her mother's condition yet."

Nida Fatima, whose cousin was among those killed, said: "We are beyond heartbroken. My cousin worked as a street vendor, selling garments. He was doing business here for years and worked hard."

The Karnataka Pragathipara Beedhi Vyaparigala Sangha demanded ex gratia of Rs 25 lakh for the kin of each of the deceased and Rs 10 lakh for the injured.

Citing unconfirmed reports, the Sangha said two of the seven who died were street vendors.

Two other street vendors are being treated at Victoria Hospital and others at Bowring Hospital.

The Sangha also demanded a government inquiry into the collapse to fix responsibility if faulty construction is established.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah meets victims of the wall collapse incident and their bereaved family members. PTI

Rs 244-cr building, opened in 2020

The Sri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Medical College and Research Centre, attached to Bowring and Lady Curzon Hospital, was built at a cost of Rs 244 crore and inaugurated in December 2020. The collapsed wall formed the perimeter of the medical college.

> This being an emergency situation, we merged the law and order divisions with the Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) and together, they cleared fallen tree branches and ensured traffic moved slowly but in a steady flow.
>
> **Seemant Kumar Singh,**
> Bengaluru Police Commissioner

> I was stuck in a traffic jam for nearly three hours. Luckily, I reached the railway station just on time for my train. The Railways should track such developments in the city and give some buffer for travellers.
>
> **Shubham,** who was travelling from Bengaluru to Delhi

Harshitha Devanath from Jayanagar said residents welcomed the rain and hail but flagged fallen trees, urging quick clearance by civic authorities.

Janani Bharath, an IT professional in Whitefield, said the relief was overshadowed by traffic worries: "Getting home will be a nightmare."

Vishal Chandrashekar from Rajarajeshwari Nagar said a dust storm around 5 pm quickly turned into heavy rain, uprooting trees.

A mortuary worker's race to save lives

MANJUNATH SHETTAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

Satya, a mortuary worker at Bowring and Lady Curzon Hospital, had nothing to do on Wednesday evening.

No bodies were scheduled for post-mortem, so he sat inside, listening to the rain patter. Then came the screams.

"I rushed out to see what had happened. That is when I saw the wall had collapsed," he told *DH*.

Satya waded into the debris alongside local residents, pulling out those trapped beneath. "Some had already died by then," he said.

The injured were rushed to the hospital. The dead came to his mortuary. The compound wall collapse killed seven people and injured nine others.

In its wake, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar directed the police and Greater Bengaluru Authority officials to remove street vendors operating near tall, structurally vulnerable compound walls, particularly in busy areas such as Shivajinagar and Commercial Street.

But Shivajinagar MLA Rizwan Arshad pushed back. "They are all licensed vendors. We did not vacate them following High Court orders," he said, adding that many had been operating in the area for decades.

Residents sit without power for hrs

BENGALURU, DHNS: Heavy rains on Wednesday evening left large parts of the city without power, as falling trees snapped lines and damaged poles and transformers across the city.

Residents were left frustrated. "I wonder why they cannot maintain the infrastructure well. Even a drop of rain, and there is a power cut. Even if there is a problem, they should be prepared to repair it soon. We had to sit in the dark for nearly two hours," said Kavya K, a resident of Kathriguppe.

Similar outages were reported from several other parts of the city.

Two electrocuted in rain-related incidents

BENGALURU: Two people, including a student, died in separate rain-related electrocution incidents on Wednesday, police said.

Syed Sufiyan (21), a student from Yarab Nagar in KG Halli, was electrocuted after coming into contact with a live wire about 100 metres from the Bowring Hospital wall tragedy site. He had gone to park his bike during the rain when electricity reportedly passed through a nearby pole. He had come to Commercial Street with his mother.

His body has been shifted to Bowring and Lady Curzon Hospital for post-mortem. Shivajinagar police have registered a case.

In another incident, Raghu (35), a daily wage worker from JD Mara in Mico Layout, died after being electrocuted near Sarakki bus stop, close to Vega City Mall, around 8.30 pm. JP Nagar police have registered a negligence case.

DOWNTOWN DAMAGE

When the hailstorm hit Church St, a book store paid the price

Nearly 5,000 books were lost as floodwaters surged in and drains overflowed on Wednesday evening. DH PHOTO

RASHMI RAJAGOPAL
BENGALURU, DHNS

Close to 5,000 books were damaged at Bookworm on Church Street after the hailstorm flooded the store and clogged nearby drains on Wednesday evening.

Proprietor Krishna said the store, which sees brisk business on Wednesdays, was inundated as hailstones piled up and blocked drainage.

Located at the bottom of an inclined driveway, the shop usually does not get flooded as water drains quickly, but the volume of hail slowed runoff.

Pedestrians on MG Road and Church Street took shelter wherever they could as hailstones battered the roads and accumulated along the sides.

Damaged titles include copies of the 'Asterix and Obelix' series, 'Elon Musk' by Walter Isaacson, 'Penguin Book of Indian Poets' compiled by Jeet Thayil, 'Cubbon Park: The Green Heart of Bengaluru' by Roopa Pai, and the 'Percy Jackson and The Olympians' series by Rick Riordan, among other children's books.

"We had added extra stock because of the summer holidays when business rises. However, many books are damaged," Krishna said.

While some estimates place the loss in lakhs, he said the extent is yet to be assessed.

About 30% of the books can be saved by placing them out in the sun. These will likely be sold at a lower cost.

The rest will have to be discarded.

"These days publishers use recycled paper, so the quality is poor and most books do not withstand water damage. Comics such as Asterix and Obelix have zero chance of survival as they are made with oil paper," he said.

Basement shops on Church Street and some ground floor outlets were partially flooded during the downpour.

"I have never seen such a hailstorm in all the years I have lived in Bengaluru. It was unbelievable and terrifying," a hotel staff member said.

Workers at affected shops tried to pump out water while informing owners, as pedestrians struggled to move through traffic and clogged drains.

Bengaluru logs wettest April day as hailstorm lashes city

BENGALURU, DHNS: A powerful hailstorm swept through Bengaluru on Wednesday evening, coating streets in ice pellets, easing summer heat, and setting a record for the wettest April day.

By 8.30 pm, the city observatory recorded 110 mm of rain, surpassing the previous 24-hour April high of 108.6 mm set on April 19, 2001, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said. The total may rise further, with an updated reading due at 8.30 am Thursday.

The storm followed a peak temperature of 37.3°C — 3.3°C above normal and the year's highest. The minimum later dropped sharply to 18°C, below the normal 22.5°C. Gusts of up to 75 kmph were recorded.

The HAL Airport observatory logged 34.2 mm of rain in the 12 hours ending 8.30 pm.

Residents described the hailstorm as unprecedented.

Head of Met Centre N Puviarasan said it was driven by intense convective activity, aided by heat, wind discontinuity, and moisture convergence. While pre-monsoon showers had already reached parts of Karnataka, a hailstorm in Bengaluru had not been forecast. Districts like Mysuru and Hassan were expected to see hail, but the system shifted east.

Hailstones on MG Road.
DH PHOTO/KRISHNAKUMAR PS

Orange alert

At 5.30 pm, the IMD issued an orange alert for three hours, warning of hail, gusty winds, power disruptions, traffic snarls, and minor damage.

Bamul to supply of 2L kg Nandini ghee to Tirupati every month

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bangalore Milk Union Limited (Bamul) will supply two lakh kg of Nandini ghee every month to Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) for the next six months.

Bamul director D K Suresh, who flagged off the first van of ghee on Wednesday, said that Bamul had won a tender worth Rs 136 crore for the same.

"Nandini ghee is known for its quality. Bamul has entered into an agreement with TTD and, considering a supply of 12.5 tonnes daily, we will supply a total of two lakh kg of ghee every month," Suresh said.

To prevent adulteration and to ensure quantity is not tampered with, the ghee will be supplied in vehicles fitted with digital lock technology. "They (TTD) will be able to open the lock only when they enter the password sent by us," Suresh said.

Suresh also refuted any proposal for a rise in milk prices. While many private companies have increased the prices of milk, KMF has not approved any price rise.

"From plastic crates to packing covers, the cost of all the products has gone up. We will bring it to the notice of the government and see what can be done," Suresh said.

At present, Bamul is collecting close to 17.5 lakh litres of milk every day and has now set a target to increase this to 21 lakh litres.

BIZ & BREEZE OF CHANGE

'AI disruption' sinks software project, land diverted to med college

Firm could not take off sdue to litigation over land acquisition

BHARATH JOSHI
BENGALURU, DHNS

Citing disruption from artificial intelligence, an investor has pulled out of a nearly two-decade-old software project in Bengaluru East, prompting the government to divert nine acres of allotted land to a medical college, documents show.

Mysore IT Solutions Pvt Ltd, with its registered office in Rajajinagar, received government approval for a software development and business process outsourcing (BPO) centre way back in 2006. This company belongs to businessman G Dayananda, who also runs the Sapthagiri brand of educational institutions.

The Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB) acquired 9.9 acres for this project - 3.5 acres in 2007 and 6.4 acres in 2014 - at Kadubeesanahalli in Varthur.

However, a prolonged litigation over land acquisition meant that the software company could not take off. By the time court cases were resolved, investing in a software company made no sense.

Dayananda approached the government with a new business plan: a "state-of-the-art institute of medical sciences and research centre along with a multidisciplinary institute of technology". The government approved this and issued an order recently.

"Owing to significant changes in market dynamics, the Information Technology sector is presently witnessing a slowdown. Rapid advancements in automation and artificial intelligence are disrupting traditional IT and BPO operations," the Mysore IT Solutions Pvt Ltd told the government in a filing.

"Hiring in the sector has declined by approximately 7%, with notable job losses reported across major IT firms. Consequently, there is limited demand for the creation of additional IT and BPO infrastructure at this juncture," the company said.

While permitting diversion of land, the government also approved an enhanced investment: from Rs 44.97 crore on the now-junked software project to Rs 410 crore for the medical college.

Litigation

In 2007, the KIADB executed a lease-cum-sale agreement for 3.5 acres in favour of Mysore IT Solutions Pvt Ltd. Land losers went to the High Court and Supreme Court, challenging the land acquisition by KIADB. The writ petition was disposed of in 2017.

The lease-cum-sale agreement for the remaining 6.4 acres has yet to see execution. Last year, the Supreme Court disposed of all other land acquisition cases.

Once litigation was out of the way, the Mysore IT Solutions Pvt Ltd approached the government for the change of activity.

Darshan files fresh plea in SC for bail

NEW DELHI, DHNS

Kannada film actor Darshan has filed a fresh plea in the Supreme Court seeking bail in the 2024 Renukaswamy murder case.

Notably, the top court had on August 14, 2025, cancelled the bail granted to him and other accused, including Pavithra Gowda.

In his fresh plea, he contended that only 15 witnesses out of 273 witnesses have been examined during the eight months since the trial began.

The examination of all the witnesses will take a long time to complete, his plea stated.

Darshan, a 47-year-old Kannada actor, was first arrested on June 11, 2024, in connection with the murder of 33-year-old Renukaswamy, a native of Chitradurga.

The victim's body was discovered near a stormwater drain in Bengaluru on June 9, 2024.

According to the police, Renukaswamy had allegedly sent obscene messages to Darshan's associate, Pavithra Gowda, which enraged the actor.

Police investigation led to the arrest of actor Darshan, his close friend Pavithra Gowda and 15 other associates.

The Bengaluru police also filed a charge sheet on September 3, 2024, naming Pavithra as the accused number 1 and Darshan as the accused number 2. Police claimed that Renukaswamy's act of sending offensive messages to Pavithra was the motive of the offence.

The others named in the charge sheet were Pawan K, 29; Raghavendra, 43; Nandish, 28; Jagadish, 36; Anukumar, 25; Ravi Shankar, 32; Dhanraj D, 27; Vinay V, 38; Nagaraju, 41; Laxman, 54; Deepak, 39; Pradosh, 40; Karthik, 27; Keshavamurthy, 27, and Nikhil Nayak, 21.

The actor was first granted interim bail on medical grounds on October 30, 2024.

He was granted regular bail by the High Court on December 13, 2024, which was cancelled by the apex court on August 14, 2025.

B'luru police launch multilingual AI integration into 112

BENGALURU, DHNS

In a first-of-its-kind initiative in the country, the Bengaluru city police have officially announced the integration of advanced multilingual AI into its 112 Emergency Response Support System (ERSS).

Home Minister G Parameshwara announced the initiative on Wednesday.

"The Bengaluru police has for the first time started this multilingual emergency response in the country," the minister said.

DH was the first to report on the AI boost to 112 in July 2025.

To bridge language barriers, Namma 112 has now been enhanced with Multilingual Voice AI for Nationwide Key Interventions (VANKI), the police said.

The multilingual system currently supports over 10 languages, including Indian languages like Bengali, Gujarati, Odia, Manipuri, Kashmiri, Nepali and Assamese, as well as widely spoken international languages like Spanish, French, and Arabic. The platform will continue to expand its language capabilities in a phased manner.

"Through this innovative system, callers can communicate in their preferred language, enabling real-time understanding of their situation. The technology assists call handlers by instantly interpreting and relaying critical information, ensuring faster response times, improved clarity and accurate deployment of emergency services," the city police said in a statement.

"This transformative initiative has been developed in collaboration with Monday Ventures and Aeos, reflecting a strong partnership between technology innovators and law enforcement to serve the public better."

Namma Yatri app

The city police also integrated 112 with the Namma Yatri app to ensure safety of passengers travelling in autorickshaws and cabs.

YELLOW YIELD

A man plucks chrysanthemum (Sevanthige) flowers at a field at Byrapura in Chikkamagaluru district on Wednesday. PTI PHOTO

50 Bihar kids rescued from being trafficked in Bangarpet

BANGARPET (KOLAR DISTRICT), DHNS: As many as 50 children from Bihar, suspected to be victims of human trafficking, were rescued from the Bangarpet KSRTC bus stand by the police on Tuesday, and subsequently admitted to the Government Children's Home in KGF.

Preliminary inquiries have indicated that the 50 children were brought to Bangarpet by Muzamil and Afroz, natives of Bihar, on board the Muzzafarpur Express. After arriving at the railway station around 9 am, the duo, along with the kids, rushed to the bus stand where all of them were reportedly waiting for a Haveri-bound bus. Suspecting that something was amiss, commuters waiting at the bus stand immediately dialled 112 and alerted the cops.

Wasting no time, police inspector C Ravikumar and team arrived at the bus stand and took the children into their care. Despite the language barrier, officials are trying to elicit as much information from them as possible.

Ravikumar said that a thorough probe would be conducted to unearth the masterminds of the racket, and to ascertain where the children were being taken to.

1.72 lakh students register for II PU examination-2

BENGALURU, DHNS: A total of 1,72,151 students have registered for the second PUC examination-2. The exam begins on Thursday.

Of the 1,72,151 students, 82,746 failed the 2026 exams. Their results were announced recently.

As many as 49,512 students, who have passed in the examination 1, have applied for improvement of scores.

This year, the Department of School Education and Literacy has cancelled the third examination, considering that the pass percentage was high.

As many as 39,099 repeaters have registered for this examination and 794 private candidates are also appearing.

Student not allowed to write KCET exam in hijab; lodges plaint with KEA

CHIKKABALLAPUR, DHNS

A second-year PU student in Chikkaballapur who was not allowed inside the KCET examination hall for her Physics exam on account of the fact that she was wearing a hijab has lodged a complaint with the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA).

The student in question, Azeez Zainab, was allegedly not allowed to write the exam with her hijab on April 23 at the BGS Science College in Chikkaballapur. Incidentally, she was allowed to appear for the Chemistry exam in the afternoon that day, and for the Mathematics and Biology exams that were held the next day. After she intimated KEA officials about the incident through an Email, they immediately contacted the staff at the college, and verified the facts.

Interestingly enough, on the same day, at Nagarjuna Engineering College in Chikkaballapur, staff deployed on examination duty cut the scared thread of a candidate – Supreeth – who was appearing for the KCET examination at the institution.

Chikkaballapur Deputy Commissioner G Prabhu inquired into both the incidents, and submitted a report compiling his findings to the government.

Minister for School Education and Literacy Madhu Bangarappa said that he had received the report submitted by the Chikkaballapur DC. "KCET exam was held at 745 centres across the state. Barring isolated incidents reported in Bengaluru and Chikkaballapur, the exam went off smoothly. Although we usually deploy Home Guards at KCET examination centres, we were unable to deploy them at all centres this year since 6,000 Home Guards were deputed to Tamil Nadu for the elections. We entrusted the task of conducting the exams smoothly to the staff of the colleges," said the minister.

Crackdown intensified on foreign nationals staying illegally

BENGALURU, DHNS: Home Minister G Parameshwara on Wednesday said that the crackdown on foreign nationals staying illegally has intensified with a sharp rise in deportations over the last three years.

Addressing a press briefing, Parameshwara said that in 2024, 339 foreign nationals were deported.

"In 2025, 401 foreigners were deported. In 2026, 427 foreigners staying illegally were deported — of these, 226 were from Bangladesh," Parameshwara said.

The Home minister said that they were sent back by air. He also said that 142 foreigners were arrested since 2024 in connection with drug cases.

"Strong action has been taken against foreign nationals involved in illegal drug activities, including deportation and criminal prosecution wherever necessary," the Home minister added.

Last seen theory itself not enough to convict accused: SC

Court sets free two men in murder case of woman

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court has said the circumstance of "last seen together" does not by itself and necessarily lead to the inference that it was the accused who committed the crime, as there must be something more establishing the connectivity between the accused and the crime.

Acquitting two men in a case of killing a woman and burning down her body in 2013 in Kalaburagi, a bench of Justices J B Pardiwala and K V Vishwanathan said, "It would be too risky to reach the conclusion that the appellants before us are guilty of a serious crime like murder, in their capacity as accomplice, solely on this piece of circumstance of last seen together".

The complaint was filed by Basanagowda alias Milan, the son of the deceased, alleging that his mother's elder brother Kalappa, appellant Anand Jakkappa Pujari alias Gaddadar, Imamsab alias Haneef, and another appellant Mahadev Sidram Hullolli had abducted, murdered and burnt the body of the deceased to destroy evidence.

The prosecution alleged Kalappa wanted to get rid of his sister and sought help of the three co-accused, including the two appellants as he had borrowed a huge sum of money from his sister and was not ready and willing to repay it.

He was also said to have disposed of one ancestral property and declined to share the sale proceeds.

Considering the appeals by Pujari and Hullolli against the Karnataka High Court's 2021 judgment upholding their 2013 conviction, the bench said the entire case of prosecution hinged on circumstantial evidence.

However, in its judgment on April 27, 2026, the court found the appellants had nothing to do with the deceased and no motive to eliminate the deceased.

The prosecution alleged the deceased was seen sitting in a Maruti 800 car along with her brother Kalappa somewhere near Mudhol Shivaji Circle and at that point of time, the appellants and the third co-accused were alleged to have got into the said car.

Relying on oral testimony, the prosecution argued that all the four accused persons were last seen in the company of the deceased.

The court emphasised the last seen theory comes into play where the time gap between the point of time when the accused and the deceased were last seen alive and the deceased is found dead is so small that possibility of any person other than the accused being the author of the crime becomes impossible. Even in such a case, the courts should look for some corroboration, it said.

The prosecution alleged that while the appellants were in police custody, they, on their own free will and volition, expressed willingness to point out the place from where the deceased was abducted, later on killed and the body was burnt.

Referring to Section 27 of the Evidence Act, the bench said the discovery evidence of two particular places i.e., place where the deceased was killed and the place where her dead body was burnt cannot be utilized against the appellants.

The court said the prosecution has to prove its case beyond all reasonable doubt.

The prosecution case "may be true," but it is not that of "must be true," and there is a long distance to travel between "may be" and "must be", the bench said, setting free the two appellants.

KAS officer, driver arrested for accepting Rs 30 lakh bribe

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Lokayukta police on Wednesday arrested a KAS officer and his driver for allegedly demanding and accepting a Rs 30 lakh bribe to pass a favourable order in a pending RRT case.

The accused have been identified as Nagaprashanth (KAS), Special Assistant Commissioner (North) and Special Land Acquisition Officer-1, KIADB, and Kumar, a driver attached to his department.

Based on a complaint filed by Ravi Kumar, a resident of Attur in Yelahanka, a team from Lokayukta laid a trap.

The officials said the accused had demanded Rs 30 lakh, of which Rs 15 lakh was allegedly collected earlier by the driver on the officer's instructions. On Wednesday, the driver was caught red-handed while allegedly accepting the remaining Rs 15 lakh. Both the accused have been taken into custody and further investigations are on, the officials said.

Casteist slurs hurdled at student, boycotted for questioning corruption

TUMAKURU, DHNS: The Directorate of Civil Rights Enforcement (DCRE) police station in Tumakuru has registered a case against 11 upper caste individuals who allegedly hurled casteist slurs at a student from the Madiga community, besides enforcing a social boycott of the student's family.

R Devaraju, the student, had alleged corruption in the execution of projects in Chikkanayakanahalli. "Incensed, they attacked me, and boycotted my family," said Devaraju, pursuing a degree in law.

Acting on his complaint, DCRE officials booked Nataraju, Sandesh Gowda, Muddegowda, Vasant Kumar, Kalyan Kumar, Tyagaraju, Yogeesh Achari, Kumar Achari, Shantaraju, Lakshman and Kariyappa.

While some of the suspects belong to Vokkaliga and Vishwakarma communities, a few hail from OBC communities. One of them is a Kshatriya.

After Devaraju lodged a complaint with authorities expressing suspicions of corruption in a road-widening project in Pragati colony in Chikkanayakanahalli, the suspects reportedly called him to the Kariyamma temple on the pretext of discussing the issue with him. When he arrived, he was reportedly attacked and asked to withdraw his complaint.

The CCB police display the drugs seized.

Cops seize narcotics worth Rs 36.67 cr, arrest 16 in B'luru

BENGALURU, DHNS: Home Minister G Parameshwara on Wednesday announced the seizure of drugs worth Rs 36.67 crore and the arrest of 16 suspects by the Bengaluru city police.

The arrested included four foreign nationals, eight persons from other states, and four locals, indicating the interstate and international links of the drug network.

The seizures were done by officials from the Central Crime Branch (CCB), Bagalur, Adugodi, Chikkajala, HSR Layout, Yeshwantpur, Jalahalli and Jnanabharathi police stations.

The seizures include 9 kg 64 gm of MDMA, 5 kg 195 gm of hydro ganja, 19,755 LSD strips, 156 gm of heroin, 618 gm of charas, 332 gm of cocaine, 315 gm of drug-infused gummies and 11 kg 470 gm of ganja.

"Acting on credible intelligence received on various dates, officers of the CCB anti-narcotics wing, along with police stations of the north east and north divisions registered cases and conducted coordinated raids at identified locations across the city," the police said in a statement.

Preliminary interrogation of the suspects revealed that they were procuring narcotic substances at relatively low prices from foreign, interstate and local sources and distributing them within Bengaluru, primarily targeting the general public, including college students, with the intention of making quick and illegal profits.

Cases have been registered under the provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act.

All 16 suspects have been produced before the courts on different dates and have been remanded in judicial custody.

Further investigation is on to trace and identify the larger network of foreign, interstate and local suppliers involved in the trafficking of narcotics, the police said.

Dalit Sena seeks action against Boseraju

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Dalit Sena has accused Science and Technology Minister N S Boseraju of 'encroaching' upon forest and Waqf land and has sought legal action.

N. S. Boseraju

In a letter addressed to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot and Forest Minister Eshwar B Khandre, Javeed Khan, state organisational secretary of Dalit Sena, alleged that five acres of land recorded as government/reserved forest land were recorded in the name of Boseraju's wife.

He also alleged that at Manvi town in Raichur district, government land located in the Housing Board Colony was recorded in Boseraju's name.

Khan also noted that after public protests, the district administration and courts had directed that such lands be handed over to the government.

He sought legal action against the concerned persons and requested immediate steps to safeguard public property and forest resources.

Quantum city to be ready by 2028, says Boseraju

Minister inspects land allotted for it in Hesaraghatta

BENGALURU, DHNS

With a vision to establish Karnataka as a global epicentre of quantum technology, the state government is aiming for significant developmental milestones in the construction of 'Quantum City' by 2028, Minister for Minor Irrigation, Science and Technology N. S. Boseraju said on Wednesday.

Speaking after a physical inspection of the 6.23 acres of land allotted for Quantum City near Hesaraghatta, the minister emphasised that Karnataka is already a national leader in the quantum sector and is now moving towards large-scale execution.

The proposed Q-City is envisioned as a world-class hub that will house pilot fabrication lines, common computing infrastructure and cutting-edge research labs. It will also provide dedicated workspaces for startups and advanced incubation facilities to nurture the next generation of deep-tech entrepreneurs.

Following the site inspection, the minister visited the International Centre for Theoretical Sciences (ICTS) campus. He interacted with resident scientists to understand future technical requirements.

CM accuses Centre of 'starving' state of Jal Jeevan funds

'Despite lack of Central support, K'taka invested Rs 17.5K crore in last 2 yrs'

BENGALURU, DHNS

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah claimed on Wednesday that the Union government had "effectively starved" Karnataka of the Jal Jeevan Mission funds for over two years despite making budgetary allocations.

"Despite the absence of central support over the past two years, Karnataka has invested Rs 17,554.63 crore, including Rs 8,880.71 crore, towards the anticipated central share, demonstrating our unwavering commitment to the mission and to the people we serve. It is unfortunate that, despite demonstrating uncompromising standards in execution and the state's capacity to drive the nation's progress, the Union government continues to delay the release of funds," the CM charged

Siddaramaiah, RDPR Minister Priyank Kharge and senior officials were representing Karnataka in a video conference with Union Jal Shakti Minister C R Patil, Union Minister of State for Jal Shakti V Somanna and senior officials of the Union government.

Noting that Karnataka was among the first states to implement a comprehensive O&M Policy and Manual, the chief minister highlighted that over 1.51 lakh women have been trained in water quality testing, strengthening community ownership.

"To ensure quality, Karnataka engaged Bureau Veritas for independent verification, conducting sampling-based inspections, document reviews, and technical tests, ensuring sustainable performance and functionality of works."

Siddaramaiah added that 259 villages in the state had already achieved 24×7 water supply, demonstrating the transformative potential of this mission.

"We urge the Union government to release the pending and due funds, including reimbursements of advance expenditures, at the earliest. This will ensure continuity, sustain momentum, and enable us to collectively achieve the shared national vision of universal, safe, and sustainable drinking water for all rural citizens."

86.93% tap connections

The chief minister said the state had achieved 86.93% coverage of household tap connections (88.06 lakh out of 101.31 lakh/ 1.013 crore) as of April 2026.

"Out of 66,344 works undertaken, nearly 48,789 have been physically completed, including 28,809 in-village works and 19,980 works in schools and anganwadis, significantly strengthening grassroots infrastructure," he added.

Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0: Centre signs MoU with Karnataka

NEW DELHI, PTI: The Centre has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the government Karnataka under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) 2.0 to strengthen rural drinking water supply and water resource management, Union Minister for Jal Shakti C R Paatil said on Wednesday.

In a series of posts on X, the minister said the agreement was inked between the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, the Ministry of Jal Shakti, and the state government, with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah joining the proceedings virtually.

Similar MoUs were also signed with the governments of Uttarakhand and Tripura.

Minister of State for Jal Shakti V Somanna was also present during the meetings, he said.

Paatil said the MoUs aim to bolster Centre-state coordination for source sustainability, efficient operation and maintenance, water quality management, and long-term water security.

Referring to Karnataka, Paatil said the agreement will further strengthen Centre-state collaboration in the conservation of water sources, effective operation and maintenance, water quality management, and long-term water security.

During the meeting, detailed discussions were also held on various suggestions for the effective and quality implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission in Karnataka, he added.

SEC says it's ready for GBA polls, but govt sought more time

BENGALURU, DHNS: The State Election Commission (SEC) has said it is prepared to conduct elections to the five proposed city corporations in Greater Bengaluru by June-end, but the state government has sought more time citing the ongoing census exercise and the anticipated Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

In a press statement, the SEC said it had already published the electoral rolls of 369 wards across the five corporations and has initiated all steps to hold elections.

According to the commission, the department of administration and personnel Reforms (DAPR) informed it about manpower constraints owing to exams in May-June, ongoing census work and proposed SIR activities. They, therefore, requested that the election deadline be extended by three months.

The SEC said considering these representations, it had informed the Supreme Court for suitable directions. The commission has also requested the government to release funds for meeting the expenses needed for holding the elections, the SEC said in the press note.

The commission maintained that it was fully prepared to hold the elections and indicated that the delay was due to pending government formalities rather than any lack of readiness on its part. The SEC has not sought any extensions, it clarified.

Chalavadi charges GBA officials with inflating cost of fixing potholes

BENGALURU, DHNS: Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the Legislative Council Chalavadi Narayanaswamy on Wednesday accused Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) officials of inflating the charges for filling potholes across the city. He pointed out that 140 potholes in Chamarajapet had been filled at a cumulative cost of Rs 1.4 crore, which meant that fixing each pothole had cost a sum of Rs 1 lakh.

"All that you (GBA officials) have done is patchwork, work that does not cost more than Rs 5,000, but your bills show that a sum of Rs 1 lakh has been spent on filling each pothole. This is a case of daylight robbery by the GBA," alleged the LoP.

Citing the findings of a recent survey, Chalavadi added, "As many as 31 people die and 86 sustain injuries in road accidents daily in Karnataka. Potholes have claimed the lives of 891 people in Bengaluru. If officials need their eyesight corrected, they should visit an eye hospital."

Chalavadi also sought to know why Congress MLA Vinay Kulkarni, who was recently convicted in a murder case, had not been suspended yet.

"Last year, when Janardhana Reddy was convicted, he was disqualified in two days. But it has been 12 days since Kulkarni was convicted. Why has the same action not been initiated against him," he asked.

TINY TOTS TURN TRADERS

Participants and public take part in a children's shandy (Makkala Santhe) organised as part of a summer camp of the theatre repertory Rangayana in Kalaburagi. DH PHOTO/TAJUDDIN AZAD

RTC staffers to launch strike from May 20

BENGALURU, DHNS

Road Transport Corporation (RTC) employees have announced an indefinite strike from May 20, following a series of "failed" negotiations regarding a pay hike and arrears payment.

On Wednesday, the Joint Action Committee of the Trade Unions of Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation issued the strike notice in a letter to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, hours after a meeting with Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy failed to address their long-standing issues.

The committee has been demanding payment of Rs 1,785 crore as arrears for 38 months (January 1, 2020, to February 28, 2023) and a 25% pay hike from January 1, 2024.

The state government had promised to clear 26 months' arrears worth Rs 1,271.92 crore.

A meeting on April 17 saw the management of transport corporations offer a 7% hike in basic pay.

The unions, however, rejected this offer, sticking to the 25% hike demand to match the 27.5% hike recently granted to other state government employees under the 7th Pay Commission.

At a meeting on Wednesday, the transport minister stated he would bring the workers' appeals to the chief minister's attention for a final decision.

Noting "a deep sense of discrimination" and "frustration" at the government's stance, the Joint Action Committee decided to call for an indefinite strike starting from May 20 as per Section 22 of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.

It also demanded merging the 31% Dearness Allowance (DA) existing as of July 1, 2002, into the basic pay, and resolving 'Form-4' and other pending demands within one month.

Lightning sans rain destroys trees

CHAMARAJANAGAR, DHNS: While some parts of the state has been receiving heavy rains with hailstorm and lightning, around 40 arecanut and coconut trees were destroyed due to a lightning attack, without rains, at Hebbasuru village, under Chandakavadi hobli on Wednesday. The lightning struck around 1 pm on Wednesday. The arecanut trees, aged around 20 years, have been destroyed. As the lightning attack was without rains, the fire from the strike spread to more trees.

Deafening sound of thunder triggers panic in Badami

BENGALURU, DHNS

Heavy rain, accompanied by thunder and lightning lashed several parts of the north and south interior Karnataka on Wednesday morning.

The deafening sound of thunder jolted the residents of Badami out of their sleep in the small hours of Wednesday. It rained heavily, along with the heightened thunder activity, in the historic town and surrounding areas for over one hours.

Hours after the spell of thundershowers, maximum temperature soared to 39 degrees Celsius in Badami.

The Kori Siddeshwara Shaka Mutt at Mudenur in Yadgir district was gutted in fire following a lightning strike late Tuesday night. Several devotees who were on the mutt premises escaped unhurt in the incident.

Hailstorm, along with gusty winds, lashed Yerajanti village near Hatti Gold Mines in Raichur district on Wednesday morning. Roof sheets of a house in the village were blown away in strong winds.

Foodgrains worth Rs 75,000 stored in the house were damaged in the rain.

Several parts of Bagalkot, Haveri and Hosapete experienced thundershowers in the intervening night of Tuesday and Wednesday.

Many parts of Tumakuru district, including the city, witnessed showers in the wee hours of Wednesday. Shettikere recorded 48 mm of rain while Chikkanayakanahalli and Gubbi received 32.7 mm and 14.8 mm of rain, respectively.

Hours after the spell of thundershowers, maximum temperature soared to 39 degrees Celsius in Badami.

Thundershowers brought some respite from scorching heat in Vemagal and Narasapur of Kolar district. The maximum temperature in both the towns had touched 43 degree Celsius. Skies opened up at 6 pm and it rained in Vemagal, Narasapur and surrounding areas for nearly one hour.

Chikkamagaluru city also experienced a brief spell of rain, accompanied by thunder and lightning.

Mysuru city also witnessed its first pre-monsoon showers late Wednesday night. The city is expected to receive thundershowerrs for the next two to three days.

A temple at Mudenur in Yadgir district was completely gutted following a lightning strike late Tuesday night.

Student's suicide: Three Dharwad cops suspended

DHARWAD, DHNS: Three personnel from Vidyagiri police station have been suspended in an alleged police harassment leading to the suicide of a BSc student.

The action has brought to light allegations that money was being extorted from those detained during anti-drug drives. The suspended personnel have been identified as head constable Chandru Nadavinamani, constables Kiran Dokkannavar and Syed Tahashildar. The action follows the suicide of Aditya Myageri (20), a resident of Girinagar. According to police sources, Aditya was among ten students detained by police last Saturday on charges of consuming ganja.

However, medical reports later confirmed that he had not consumed the substance. Despite this, the police allegedly demanded money (Rs 2,000) to let him off. Distressed, he died by suicide on Monday.

DHiE
NEWSPAPER IN EDUCATION

DHiE Schools: SSLC Results 2025-2026

Congratulations to the students of DHiE schools on their meritorious performance in the examination

NAME OF THE SCHOOL	LOCALITY	1st Place NAME	1st Place %	2nd Place NAME	2nd Place %	3rd Place NAME	3rd Place %
Blossom School	Kanakapura	Chandana S	97.6%	Kavya K G	96.5%	Punyashree K	96.2%
Carmel High School	Jaraganahalli	Naveen Krishna M	97.4%	Deeksha D P	96.6%	Deepika V	96.0%
Carmel High School	Jaraganahalli					Ullas V Nayak	96.0%
Chinmaya Vidyalaya	Ulsoor	Yuvashri Kadiyala	98.1%	Vidula M	97.5%		
DBM & RJS High School	Koramangala	Vrinda Rajesh Chinnanavar	96.2%	R Yashaswini	96.0%		
East West Public School	Rajajinagar	Anupama C H	96.8%	Hamsini C	91.4%		
Ganga International School	Nelagadaranahalli	Sharath M	95.7%				
Ideal English High School	Bengaluru	Shree Lakshmi	98.0%	Hajeera	96.3%	Meghana G H	96.1%
JSS Public School	HSR Layout	Chinmayee A V	99.0%	Abhijit S Kamath	98.6%	Sanyuktha	98.2%
Jubilee School	Vijinapura	Varun Prajapath	95.5%	Arjun K Arun	95.4%		
Kamala Central English High School	Cottonpet	Manisha Rajpurohit	97.0%				
Little Angels Public School	Kanakanagar	Daksh Kumawat	96.5%	Deeksha Spoorthy J	96.0%	Nayana N	95.8%
Madonna School	Udayanagar	Rohan P	98.9%	Krishna Sahoo	98.4%	S Simran	97.4%
Madonna School	Udayanagar	Shreeya M	98.9%				
MEI International School	Chikkabanavara	Aadhya KA	98.0%				
MEI International School	Chikkabanavara	Bhavish R	98.0%				
MEI International School	Chikkabanavara	Parikshith Gowda HR	98.0%				
New Horizon School	Hosakote	Vishnu Reddy	99.5%	Shreyash Yadav	98.7%	Nithish S	98.4%
Nisarga Vidyanikethana	Hessarghatta	Pavithra M	97.9%	Preksha H D	96.5%	Nabhanya LP	96.3%
Our Lady Of Fatima High School	Madivala	Likhitha K	97.3%	Kushal Singh M	96.8%	Jiya D	96.0%
Oxford English High School	New Thippasandra	Nithyashree V	95.8%	Harshitha J	95.5%		
Rotary Bangalore Vidyalaya	Bangalore	Anjana G	95.3%				
Seshadripuram English High School	Kumara Park West	Chinmayee V	99.4%	Shubha G Upadhya	98.9%	Dhanistha D N	98.0%
Seshadripuram High School	Yelahanka New Town	Chetan Uppin	98.4%	Abhilash A	98.1%	Neeraj P	97.8%
Shiksha Niketan School	Nandini Layout	Sinchana U Hegde	98.9%	Aanvi R	98.6%	Manthan M Shetty	98.2%
Siddaganga Public School	Vijaynagar	Chaithanya J M	97.1%				
SJR Public School	HBR Layout	Sanvi Agrawal	98.0%	Pranita Sudhir	98.0%	Shaan A Poojari	95.2%
Soundarya School	Havanoor Extension	Dhanush B	99.5%	Mohith S	99.4%	Prerana R	99.2%
Sree Ayyappa Education Centre	T Dasarahalli	Ankita K	99.2%	Nuthan G	98.9%	Nandagopal N	98.2%
Sree Venkateshwara English High School	KR Puram	P Nivedha	97.6%	Neeraj P	97.4%	Pooja Lokre	97.3%
Sri Kalabhyraveshwara High Sch (BGS Vidyanikethana)	Kanakapura	Mithun C K	97.9%	Sanjana P K	97.8%	Gurupriya K M	97.3%
Sri Vani Education Centre School	Hanumavana	Rohit Narasimha Sudhir	98.6%	Goutham R Gowda	96.0%	Sindhu S Udupa	95.4%
St Anne's High School	Kammanahalli	Pranali J S	91.0%				
The South School	J P Nagar 7th Phase	Sameeksha Kiran	97.9%	Khushi B	97.6%	Bodireddy Hemasundhar Reddy	96.0%
VLS Vidyasagara English Medium School	Basaveshwarnagar	GN Anagha	98.24%	Anushka Kulakarni	97.8%	Dhanushree G	97.4%

DHiE Schools: CBSE Class 10 Results 2025-2026

Congratulations to the students of DHiE schools on their meritorious performance in the CBSE examination

Bunts' Sangha R.n.s.vidyaniketan	Vijayanagar	Shamitha S.m	98.4%	Vedanth.s.nayak	97.6%	Ainesh Kishora Shetty	96.4%
MTB Jnana Jyothi Vidyanikethan	Mahadevapura	Vignajith Hosamane	94.6%	Basith Abdurrahman	94.2%	Sai Charan M	93.4%
MTB Jnana Jyothi Vidyanikethan	Mahadevapura			Bandi Tejush Reddy	94.2%		
SJR Public School	HBR Layout	Sanvi Agrawal	98.0%	Pranita Sudhir	98.0%	Shaan Poojari	95.2%
Sri Sarada Devi Vidya Kendra	Shivanahalli	Amith Gowda B M	97.0%				
Sri Sri Ravishankar Vidya Mandir	Brindavan Layout	Dyuthi Venkatraghavan	97.6%	Swasthika Sreepad	95.8%	Saripalle Adhvaith	95.2%

Unusual heat, gas crisis drive up state's electricity use this April

20% rise seen; cooling devices, induction stoves guzzle power

SNEHA RAMESH
BENGALURU, DHNS

Power consumption increased drastically in the state in April compared to previous years.

According to data accessed by *DH*, between April 1 and April 26, Karnataka has recorded consumption of 9,101 MUs of power, the highest in the last five years and close to 20% more than that consumed in the same period in 2025.

Over the last few years, the consumption during this period in April has remained between 7,500 and 8,000 MUs.

Senior officials from the energy department said unusual heat was the major contributor to such a drastic increase in consumption.

"This year, we observed unusually high heat and this triggered the use of multiple cooling devices. Hence, power consumption increased drastically," said Gaurav Gupta, additional chief secretary (energy).

The lack of premonsoon showers had resulted in consistently higher temperatures, forcing people to use cooling devices.

While many houses and establishments now run multiple air conditioners (ACs) and coolers, increasing the demand, senior Bescom officials said, disruption in gas supply owing to the conflict in West Asia could have also increased consumption.

"The situation was pretty bad during the first two weeks of April and many bigger hotels also started using induction cooktops. This could have had an impact on power consumption," the official said.

Owing to the fear that gas cylinders may not be available easily, many houses started using induction cooktops, driving the residential consumption up.

Senior Bescom officials said they had been receiving applications for an increase in load capacity by many commercial establishments since many of them have transitioned to the use of an induction stove for cooking.

However, Gupta said penetration of such devices may still be low. The energy department is prepared to manage any more increase in demand, he said.

"We are sure that premonsoon showers will bring down the demand over the next few days. But we are prepared even if the situation worsens," he said.

The peak demand in the city in April has also increased over the years from 16,110 MW in 2023-24 to 16,985 MW in 2024-25 and 17,330 MW in 2025-26. This year, peak demand has increased to 18,478 MW.

Senior officials from the energy department said unusual heat was the major contributor to such a drastic increase in consumption. DH FILE PHOTO

Power use from April 1 to April 26 (in MUs)

2023: 7,553.81
2024: 8,104
2025: 7,624
2026: 9,101

Vijay Anandh takes over as MD&CEO of City Union Bank

Dr N Kamakodi (left) felicitates Vijay Anandh who is set to take over as MD&CEO of City Union Bank tomorrow.

Vijay Anandh will be the new Managing Director and CEO of City Union Bank effective tomorrow.

Over the past two years, he has been closely associated with the bank as Executive President and Executive Director. He has been in the banking sector for nearly 30 years.

Speaking on the transition, Dr N Kamakodi who retires as MD&CEO today, congratulated Vijay Anandh and stated that he has a deep understanding of the bank's culture, customer base, operational philosophy and risk framework to ensure effective leadership, going forward.

On his new role, Vijay Anandh said the bank is performing well. The focus will be on sustaining and strengthening existing strategies.

The bank crossed an impressive milestone of 1,000 branches recently.

Curated by DH Brandspot

IPS reshuffle: State govt replaces Intelligence chief, transfers 3 officers

BENGALURU, DHNS

The state government has transferred three senior IPS officers in the state and replaced the state Intelligence chief, raising eyebrows.

The government issued the notification late on Tuesday.

As per the order, Ravi S, from the 1998 batch, has been transferred and posted as the Additional Director General of Police (ADGP), Karnataka State Reserve Police (KSRP).

He replaces Sandeep Patil, IPS, who was relieved from holding the concurrent charge.

Ravi was the ADGP (Intelligence). In Ravi's place, the government appointed Labhu Ram, from the 2004 batch, in the downgraded post as Inspector General of Police (Intelligence).

Ram was the IGP of Central Range.

Fallout suspected

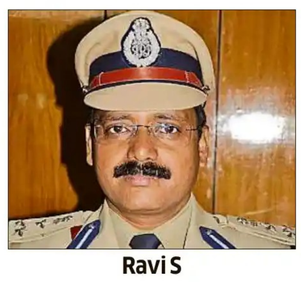
The sudden transfer raised eyebrows as some IPS officers suspected a fallout between Ravi and the state government. Ravi was posted as ADGP (Intelligence) in June 2025 after the government transferred Hemant M Nimbalkar following the stampede at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium that killed 11 people.

The government also transferred and appointed S Girish, from the 2012 batch, as Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIGP), Central Range, in the downgraded post.

Girish was previously the DIGP, Anti Narcotic Task Force.

The government further said that the post of Inspector General of Police (Intelligence) has been declared equivalent in status and responsibilities to the cadre post of Inspector General of Police, Criminal Investigation Department (CID), under Rule 12 of the IPS (Pay) Rules, 2016.

"The post of Deputy Inspector General of Police, Central Range, Bengaluru, has been declared equivalent to the cadre post of Deputy Inspector General of Police, CID under the same rules," the notification said.



Ravi S

Labhu Ram

S Girish.

(PHOTOS BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT)

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IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Tanya Mathias

5th September, 1964 - 29th April, 2026

D/O Dr.Veronica Mathias & Late Michael Mathias
Sister of Ben & Stephen

Her mortal remains have been donated to NIMHANS for neuro scientific research.
A memorial service will be held later.

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God"
MATTHEW 5:8

"If we are children again, we want no one else but You, for our Dad. We love you Pa, today, everyday".

Mr. J S Victor Bosco
(87 YRS)
With profound grief we announce the peaceful passing on of our Father & Grandfather on 28.04.2026
Funeral mass : Friday, **1st May 2026** at St Anthony's Church, Munnekollal, Blore 37
Time 11 Am, Burial : Kalpali Cemetary
Joseph's and Bosco's Family, Friend's and Relative's

Elephant calf succumbs to fatigue

BELUR (HASSAN DISTRICT), DHNS: A two-month-old wild jumbo calf, suffering from fatigue for the last few days, died at Neralakatte village in the taluk on Wednesday.

The male calf could not get up as it was not well and had turned very weak. The mother elephant and another jumbo were camping near the calf for the last few days at Thimmegowda estate in the village. The Forest Department staff were monitoring its movements.

On Wednesday, the calf, however, succumbed to the illness. Realising that the calf was dead, the other two jumbos, which were camping near it, moved away from the spot.

The officials conducted the post-mortem and cremated the jumbo calf at the estate.

The samples and viscera have been sent to the lab for testing, said Range Forest Officer B J Yathish. ACF Mohan Kumar was also present.

Three people die, several students hurt as bus rams tanker, lorry

UDUPI, DHNS: Three people - including the crew of a private bus - were killed and students injured after the bus carrying college students rammed into two stationary heavy vehicles on National Highway 66 near Trasi–Maravanthe on Wednesday afternoon.

According to the police, the accident occurred around 1.30 pm when a bus travelling from Byndoor towards Kundapura veered to the extreme left side of the road. The driver allegedly lost control and first crashed into a parked petroleum tanker on a mud road before rear-ending a stationary lorry on the opposite side.

The impact left the front portion of the bus completely mangled, trapping several passengers inside. Locals and emergency responders rushed to the spot and rescued the injured, who were shifted to nearby hospitals.

Police said three passengers - Raghu alias Umesh (spare driver), Ranganath (cleaner) and Hemanth (cook) - who sustained severe injuries in the mishap succumbed at hospital. Several others are undergoing treatment at Kundapura Adarsha Hospital, Manipal Hospital, Kundapur Government Hospital and Chinmayi Hospital.

Preliminary investigation revealed that rash and negligent driving by the bus driver, identified as Manjunath, led to the mishap. A case has been registered against him at Gangolli Police Station under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. The bus was ferrying final-year BCom students of Rambapuri College, under Kuvempu University, on an educational tour. They had set out on April 26 and were returning after visiting Dandeli and Honnavar when the accident occurred.

Senior police officials, including Udupi Superintendent of Police Hariram Shankar, along with investigation officer Sudarshan B N, visited the accident site and supervised relief operations.

The SP said that three students are undergoing surgeries and treatments, but all out of danger.

Digital arrest: Elderly man loses Rs 1.7 crore

KARWAR, DHNS: In yet another case of a senior citizen becoming a victim of the digital arrest scam, a 69-year-old man in Yellapur, Uttara Kannada district lost Rs 1.74 crore to cybercriminals posing as Mumbai police.

Shivanand Hegde (69) was allegedly told by the cybercriminals that terrorists had used his Aadhaar credentials and opened an account, which they had then used to carry out transactions running into crores of rupees. Subsequently, a case was registered at the CEN police station.

"Hegde received a call from the cybercriminals on April 21, and was told that senior police officers were probing the transactions carried out from the account that had been opened by terrorists using his Aadhaar card. In fact, Hegde even spoke to a man dressed in a police uniform on a video call. He was placed under digital arrest and money was transferred from his account through multiple transactions," cops attached to the CEN police station said.

Trump warns Iran to 'get smart soon', accept nuclear deal

Trump warns, From Page 1

Iran has blockaded the strait, sending shockwaves through the global economy. But its own economy is also suffering. On Wednesday, the Iranian rial fell to historic lows against the dollar.

During a White House state dinner on Tuesday, Trump told Britain's King Charles III and other guests that Iran had been "militarily defeated".

But an Iranian army spokesman told state TV on Tuesday that "we do not consider the war to be over", saying Tehran had "no trust in America".

"We have many cards that we have not yet used... new tools and methods of fighting based on the experiences of the past two wars, which will definitely allow us to respond to the enemy more decisively" should the fighting resume, Amir Akraminia said in an interview.

7 dead in Bowring Hospital wall collapse after torrential rain lashes B'luru

Bowring Hospital, from Page 1

Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (Bescom) disconnected power supply as a precaution to avoid further hazards during rescue efforts.

The grief of the victims' family members knew no bounds. Mohammed Suhail, whose brother was among the deceased, said, "My brother had been selling footwear on the footpath here for many years. He has a wife and two young children. Unfortunately, this has happened. I feel lost without him."

Ahmed Khan, a relative of another victim, vented his anger at the authorities. "After the incident, everyone comes here to express grief, but nobody does anything to stop such incidents."

What caused collapse?

Sources said the collapse was likely caused by additional construction load exerted on the ageing wall, which weakened its structure over time. Shivajinagar MLA Rizwan Arshad said piles of mud from construction at the Adi Shakthi Temple inside the hospital had been dumped behind the 30-year-old wall. Locals blamed the GBA for "negligence" in monitoring construction and structural safety.

The deceased were identified as Mohammed Abdul Haq (52), a cloth businessman from Rajappa Block, JC Nagar; Fayaz Ahmed (39), a footwear businessman from Ratansingh Layout, Kaval Byrasandra; Musaveer Begum (6), a student from KG Halli; Latha K K (57), Ramanamangalam, Ernakulam district, Kerala; Smitha (47), Kizhumuri, Ramanamangalam, Ernakulam; Mohammed Salahuddin Ansari (36), vendor from UP and Nasimulla (19), car stickering worker from Thimmaiah Road, originally from Assam.

The injured were identified as Jabeen Taj (47), Mubeen Taj (49), Azzu (35), Mohammed Sajid (21), originally from Bihar, all residents of Bengaluru; Preethi (51), Sija (45) and Maya (51), all visitors from Ernakulam district, Kerala, Syed Zameer and Samiullah, both from Bengaluru.

Speeding car mows down 2 morning walkers, 1 grievously hurt

LAXMESHWAR (GADAG DISTRICT), DHNS: Morning walk turned fatal for two people, including a government school teacher, and another teacher sustained grievous injuries after a speeding car hit them from behind on Laxmeshwar-Hubballi state highway on the outskirts of the town on Wednesday.

The police have identified the deceased as Ashok Saravi (50), a teacher at the government higher primary school at Akkigund Tanda, Shivananda Hulakoti (52), an autorickshaw driver. M S Chakalabbi, also a teacher, suffered serious injuries. He was rushed to a private hospital in Laxmeshwar. According to eyewitnesses, the impact of the crash flung both the deceased five to six feet in the air. Driver of the car Navanath Mane has surrendered to the police. The Laxmeshwar Town police have registered a case.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that our client has negotiated to purchase the Schedule Property from its owners, **1. Parvathamma C, W/o. late Chandrashekar, aged about 55 years, 2. Sathish C, S/o. late Chandrashekar, aged about 41 years. 3. D. Lakshmidevi, W/o. Mr. Sathish C, aged about 35, 4. Master Chirag S. S/o. Mr. Sathish C, aged about 5 years, 5. Master Samarth S, S/o. Mr. Sathish C, aged about 3 years, Sl. No. 4 and 5 being minors, represented by their natural guardian and father, Mr. Sathish C, all residing at No. 228, Papareddy Palya, Opp. Venkateshwara Swamy Temple, Nagarbhavi 2nd Stage, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560072, 6. Manasa H. C., D/o. late Chandrashekar, W/o. Mr. Shivakumar, aged about 38 years, residing at No. 5, Near Venkateshwara Swamy Temple, Papareddy Palya, Nagarbhavi 2nd Stage, Bengaluru 560072, [hereinafter referred as "Sellers"] for valuable consideration.** The sellers have represented to our client that Mr. Chandrashekar, the husband of first of the Sellers, father of Second and Sixth of the Sellers, father-in-law of Third of Sellers and Grandfather of Sellers No. 4 and 5, acquired the Schedule Property under a Panchayath Palupatti dated 17th August 1979 and the Katha of the Schedule Property was mutated in his name vide Mutation Register Extract in MR No. 40/1988-89. After the demise of Mr. Chandrashekar, the Sellers herein have succeeded to the Schedule Property as his sole legal heirs. Any person(s) claiming any right, title or interest of whatsoever nature over the Schedule Property is called upon to lodge such claim with the undersigned, with supporting documents within 10 days from the date of this publication. In the event no claim(s) is received within the stipulated time, it shall be lawful for our client to presume that there are no valid claim(s) adverse to Sellers' right, title and interest in the Schedule Property and proceed with the proposed sale transaction

. SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of agricultural land bearing old Sy. No. 158/5, new Sy. No. 158/11, measuring 1 Acre 22 Guntas, and 3 Guntas of Karab land, totally measuring 1 Acre 25 Guntas, situated at Hadripura Village, Doddabelavangala Hobli, Doddaballa pura Taluk, and bounded on the **East by** Land bearing Sy.No. 157 and 158/6, **West by** Land bearing Sy. No.158/5, belonging to Mrs. Aishwaraya and Mrs. Soundarya, **North by Road South by** Sy. No. 4.

A. Venkoba Rao,
AVR Associates, Advocates,
No. 34, 2nd Floor, 11th Cross,
2nd Main Road, Indiranagar
I Stage, Bengaluru 560038.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that our client has negotiated to purchase the Schedule Property from its owners, 1. **Mrs. Aishwarya V,** D/o, late **Veerabhadraiah, W/o. Mr. Nataraju A. G., aged about 24 years, resident of Agalagunte Palya, Bugudanahalli, Bellavi Hobli, Tumkur Taluk, Tumkuru, Karnataka 572107 2. Mrs. Soundarya, D/o. late Veerabhadraiah, W/o. Naveen K.V., aged about 22 years, resident of Kadanur, Hadripura, Bengaluru North Taluk, Karnataka 561204, 3. Mrs. Sarojamma, D/o. late Huchappa, W/o. Mr. Muddaveeraiah, aged about 53 years, resident of V. G. Doddi, Magadi, Hanchikuppe, Veeragowdanadoddi, Ramanagar, Karnataka 561201** [hereinafter referred as "Sellers"] for valuable consideration. The Sellers have represented to our client that Mrs. Nanjamma, D/o. late Mallappa @ Mallegowda and her son, Mr. Veerabhadraiah, S/o. Huchappa, acquired the Schedule Property under a Panchayath Palupatti dated 17th August 1979 and the Katha of the Schedule Property was mutated in his name vide Mutation Register Extract in MR No. 40/1988-89. After the demise of Mrs. Nanjamma and Mr. Veerabhadraiah, the Sellers herein have succeeded to the Schedule Property as their sole legal heirs. Any person(s) claiming any right, title or interest of whatsoever nature over the Schedule Property is called upon to lodge such claim with the undersigned, with supporting documents within 10 days from the date of this publication. In the event no claim(s) is received within the stipulated time, it shall be lawful for our client to presume that there are no valid claim(s) adverse to Sellers' right, title and interest in the Schedule Property and proceed with the proposed sale transaction.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of agricultural land bearing Sy. No. 158/5, measuring 1 Acre 27 Guntas, and 2 Guntas of Karab land, totally measuring 1 Acre 29 Guntas, situated at Hadripura Village, Doddabelavangala Hobli, Doddaballa pura Taluk, and bounded on the East by Land bearing Sy. No. 158/11, belonging to Parvathamma, West by Land in Sy. No. 158/3 and 158/4, North by Road, South by Sy. No. 4.

A. Venkoba Rao,
AVR Associates, Advocates,
No. 34, 2nd Floor, 11th Cross,
2nd Main Rood, Indiranagar I Stage,
Bengaluru-560038.

PERSONAL

Change of Name

I, PRASANNAKUMAR. P, aged about 62 years, S/o . Late Padmanabhan, R/o. Flat No. 103, Prakruthi Kaveri, 3rd Main Road, Kaveri Nagar, R.T. Nagar, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560032 have changed my name from Padmanabhan Prasannakumar to PRASANNAKUMAR PADMANABHAN for all future purposes as per documents.

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Destruction of Medical Records

The Oxford Medical College, Hospital & Research Centre, Yadavanahalli, Attibele Hobli, Bangalore - 562107 is hereby informing that their Medical Records Department (MRD) intends to destroy old medical records (non MLC) from JAN 2012 to DEC 2018 that have exceeded their mandatory retention period.

Any patient or authorised legal representative who wishes to retrieve their medical records pertaining to the given period must submit a written request to the MRD in charge mro.tomch@theoxford.edu within a period of 30 days from the date of this advertisement.

I, NAGESH PAI S/o ANANTHA PAI have changed my name to NAGESH PAI H vide affidavit dated: 29/4/2026 Before Notary Vanajakshi. R Bangalore.

MY SON, Atharva Sunny Teki, born on 02/11/2011 (native district: Bengaluru), residing at No. 126, 3rd Cross, Sri Venkateshwara Nagar, Jakkur Post, Bengaluru - 560064, shall henceforth be known as Atharva Raju Teki. Teki Raju (Father).

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Kharge as CM? We'll welcome it, says HM

BENGALURU, DHNS: Home Minister G Parameshwara on Wednesday said everyone in the governing Congress will welcome AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge becoming the chief minister.

"If he (Kharge) becomes (the CM) we will be very happy, because he is a senior politician with a lot of experience. If he becomes CM, we will all welcome it," Parameshwara told reporters in response to a question whether Kharge himself desired the CM's post.

On senior Congress MLA K N Rajanna's statement demanding a 'Dalit CM', Parameshwara, also a Dalit, said: "Let's not speak about it. I don't want to unnecessarily get into that. Without knowing things, let's not comment on them."

Vinay Kulkarni's disqualification automatic: Speaker

BENGALURU, DHNS: Legislative Assembly Speaker U T Khader, on Wednesday, clarified that Congress MLA Vinay Kulkarni stood "automatically disqualified" upon conviction, asserting that the Speaker had no independent power to remove a member in such cases.

Responding to questions over the delay in notifying the vacancy, Khader said the Assembly secretary had been directed to examine the matter.

"It doesn't matter if it is late by one or two days from our side. As disqualification is automatic, my job is only to give intimation," he told reporters.

Emphasising that disqualification was a legal consequence, he said, "When anyone is convicted, they are deemed to be disqualified. Reinstatement is possible only if a court stays the conviction," he added.

The position stems from the Supreme Court's ruling in Lily Thomas vs Union of India (2013), which struck down the earlier protection for legislators and made disqualification immediate upon conviction if the sentence exceeds two years.

Kulkarni, MLA from Dharwad Rural, was convicted on April 17, 2026, by a special court for elected representatives in Bengaluru and sentenced to life imprisonment in the 2016 murder of BJP leader Yogesh Goudar.

Countdown may have begun for meltdown in state Cong

ANALYSIS

Siddu isolated amid mid-May power transfer buzz?

PRATHIMA NANDAKUMAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah appears to be losing the perception battle as speculation over a mid-May power transfer gathers momentum, with the challenge now coming from within his own camp rather than his rival and deputy D K Shivakumar.

Former minister K N Rajanna recently described Siddaramaiah as "helpless".

Public Works Minister Satish Jarkiholi lamented that promises made to the Ahinda bloc - Congress' core base of minorities, backward classes and Dalits - remain unfulfilled.

Rajanna claimed that Siddaramaiah is "mentally prepared" to either step down or continue as chief minister, depending on the high command's direction, while flagging unease within the Ahinda bloc.

"There is a huge difference between Siddaramaiah as CM in 2013 and now. Ahinda communities are not happy," he said, even pitching again for a Dalit chief minister.

Jarkiholi alleged the Congress government had failed to deliver assurances to Ahinda communities due to "internal resistance".

"Ahinda movement needs a shift in strategy. It should function beyond electoral politics," said Jarkiholi, in Hubballi recently. This despite Siddaramaiah being the tallest Ahinda leader in the state.

Giving credence to Jarkiholi's claims is the party's fallout with the Muslim community in Davangere South over ticket denial, an elusive caste survey and the long delay in SC sub-quota exercise.

The recent Cabinet move revising the SC sub-quota is seen as damage control rather than political conviction.

A shift in loyalty of MLAs flocking to Delhi is evident as they are no longer defending Siddaramaiah's continuation.

They are hedging bets, lobbying for Cabinet berths and playing both sides. A growing section believes the party cannot head into elections with leadership uncertainty, say insiders.

While previous attempts to outmanoeuvre Shivakumar have failed to find traction with the high command, the KPCC president's steady engagement with Delhi has kept the transition question alive.

Add to this, a cash-strapped government, friction between MLAs and ministers over funds and the BJP's aggressive attack over alleged corruption and governance, early signs of anti-incumbency have set in, fear party insiders.

Another fault line is closer home, the political future of his MLC son Yathindra, whose alleged interference has alienated colleagues.

Siddaramaiah, popular for his pro-Ahinda stance, pro-poor schemes and guarantees, for his records as the state's longest serving chief minister and for tabling the highest number of budgets, is in a dilemma.

He knows his refusal to step down could fragment the Congress, which made him - an "outsider" - the CM twice, besides tainting his political legacy.

Post May 4, seniors hint at a "major overhaul". Amid chaos, Siddaramaiah has chosen silence.

Former minister K N Rajanna has claimed that Siddaramaiah is "mentally prepared" to either step down or continue as chief minister, depending on the high command's direction, while flagging unease within the Ahinda bloc.
DH FILE PHOTO

'CM needs no show of strength, he himself is strength'

Mahadevappa calls on top Cong leaders over power squabble

NEW DELHI, DHNS

Amid the ongoing leadership tussle, Social Welfare Minister H C Mahadevappa on Wednesday asserted that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah does not need to demonstrate his strength through rallies or public shows, as he himself is a source of strength for the party.

Mahadevappa

Mahadevappa, a close confidant of the chief minister, made the remarks after holding discussions with Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Randeep Surjewala, general secretary incharge of the Congress in Karnataka, here over the past two days.

His visit to the national capital comes just days after Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar met with Kharge, adding to speculation about internal power dynamics in Congress-ruled Karnataka.

Speaking to media persons, Mahadevappa clarified that he did not discuss state politics with the party high command, stating that they were already well aware of all developments in the state.

When asked whether he had sought permission from the high command to organise an 'Ahinda' rally as a show of strength for Siddaramaiah, the minister dismissed the idea, saying no such rally had been planned and that reports in there media were mere speculation.

"Even if we want to hold such a rally, the party high command will never say no," he added.

"For Siddaramaiah, there is no need to hold any rally to show his strength. He himself is a strength, and everyone is aware of it," Mahadevappa insisted.

Exit polls predict BJP victory in Bengal, Assam

Exit polls, From Page 1

Seven polls in Kerala showed the UDF cruising to victory but not with emphatic margins. If the Congress-led coalition wins, no Left government will be in the country for the first time in decades.

In Kerala

With the half-mark fixed at 71, the UDF is predicted to win 66-85 seats while the CPM-led LDF may get seats in a range of 49-69 seats. Two polls — PMarq and People's Insight — predicted a photo-finish with UDF getting 71-79 and 66-76 seats as against the LDF's 62-69 and 58-68 respectively.

Axis My India, Matrize, People's Pulse, JVC and Chanakya have given the UDF an edge over the LDF.

In Tamil Nadu, where the half-way mark is 118, five exit polls predicted victory for the DMK-led alliance while two gave it to the AIADMK alliance.

An eighth one — Axis My India — predicted a hung Assembly but put Vijay's TVK on top, the only one to give it 98-120 seats while all others gave a range of 8-40 seats. This exit poll gave the DMK alliance 92-110 seats while the AIADMK coalition was relegated to a distant third with 22-32 seats.

In Tamil Nadu

Matrize gave the DMK alliance 122-132 seats while PMarq put the number at 125-145 and Praja Polls at 148-168. The JVC polls gave the AIADMK coalition an edge with 128-147 as against the DMK's 75-95 and the TVK's 8-15. Another poll to give the AIADMK alliance the edge was Vote Vibe, which predicted 114-124 seats for the Edappadi Palaniswami-led bloc and 103-113 seats for the DMK coalition.

In Puducherry, the N Rangaswamy-led AINRC may once again assume power with a comfortable majority in the 30-member Assembly. Three exit polls predicted victory for the coalition with seats ranging between 16 and 25. The Congress-DMK coalition may have to settle with 6-12 seats, according to the polls.

92.4% turnout, sporadic...

Bengal, From Page 1

Sporadic incidents of violence were reported during the second phase of polling, apart from allegations of intimidation of voters. An elderly man died, allegedly after being pushed by paramilitary personnel at a polling station in Howrah. A child was allegedly injured during a baton charge by paramilitary personnel in South 24 Parganas district.

The ruling Trinamool Congress accused the personnel of the central paramilitary forces deployed in the state by the Election Commission of committing atrocities on its workers and of being biased in favour of its principal challenger, the BJP, before and during the polling in both phases.

"The BJP wants to rig this election. Polls in Bengal are usually peaceful. Is there a goonda raj here?" Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said, alleging intimidation of TMC polling agents and late-night visits by central paramilitary forces to the homes of party workers.

The BJP, however, stated that the people of West Bengal voted fearlessly this time for a change, rejecting the corruption, hooliganism and divisive politics practised by the TMC. "The TMC goons used to attack Opposition candidates and intimidate voters previously, but they can't anymore. Now, everywhere the atmosphere is free of violence and fear, and credit goes to the Election Commission," Samik Bhattacharya, the state BJP chief, said.

Eight districts went to the polls on Wednesday. Purba Bardhaman registered the highest voter turnout of 93.83%.

Clashes were reported from several districts, including South 24 Parganas' Bhangar, where tensions flared following complaints of EVM malfunction, triggering protests that led to a baton charge by police and paramilitary personnel to disperse crowds.

Similar scenes were reported from Bally in Howrah also.

AUCTION NOTICE

This is to inform public in general that Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd has organized an auction in below mention respect of vehicles.

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3) CB_TATA_INTRA_V50 YOM – 2024 Reg No – KA52C1653
4) CB_EICHER LP 3009 Fully Built YOM – - Reg No – KA52C2392
5) ASHOK LEYLAND LIMITED – AL_DOST_GOODS YOM – 2023 Reg No – KA17AA8091

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ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಮಕ್ಲವಿ/ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ.ವಿ–009/010/2026–27/16 ದಿನಾಂಕ:29.04.2026

ಮಹಾರಾಣಿ ಕ್ಲಸ್ಟರ್ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯದ ಸಮಾಜಶಾಸ್ತ್ರ ವಿಭಾಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಡಿ ದೇವರಾಜ ಅರಸು ಸಂಶೋಧನಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯಿಂದ ಪ್ರಾಯೋಜಿತವಾಗಿ "ಬೈಲು ಪತ್ತಾರ" ಸಮುದಾಯದ ಕುಲಶಾಸ್ತ್ರೀಯ ಅಧ್ಯಯನದ ಕಾರ್ಯವನ್ನು ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಈ ವಿಷಯವಾಗಿ "ಬೈಲು ಪತ್ತಾರ" ಸಮುದಾಯಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸುವಂತೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯುಳ್ಳವರು 9448321408/8310845857/9611963105 ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಗಳನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸುವುದು ಹಾಗೂ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯದ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ಗೆ ಭೇಟಿ ನೀಡುವುದು.

ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ ವಿಳಾಸ https://mcu.karnataka.gov.in/90/centre-for-sociology-studies-and-research/en

ಸಹಿ/– ಕುಲಸಚಿವರು,
ಮಹಾರಾಣಿ ಕ್ಲಸ್ಟರ್ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ

ಡಿಐಪಿಆರ್/ಸಿಪಿ/409/ಸಿಸಿಎಲ್/2026–27

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Shivajinagara Division,
Thimmaiah Road, Queens Road, Bengaluru - 560052.

No: EE/SJN/E-PROC/06/2026-27 Date: 29-04-2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPP Portal only)

The Executive Engineer, Shivajinagara Division, BCCC, Bengaluru invites Item Rate Tenders from registered Contractors of BBMP or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES or any State Government Organizations for the Work detailed below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Providing PMC for Construction of Kalyani, Rock Fill Bund in Ulsoor Lake, Bengaluru Urban District. **(Call-2) - Amount Put to Tender (Without GST) (Rs. in Lakhs): 728.75, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 75,000.00**

Calendar of Events: 1) Tender Documents may be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 30-04-2026 at 11.00 Hours.** 2) Pre Bid Meeting will be held on **08-05-2026 at 16.00 Hours.** 3) Last Date for Submission of Tender Document: **15-05-2026 upto 16.00 Hours.** 4) Date of Opening of Bids: **16-05-2026 at 11.00 Hours.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Shivajinagara Division, BCCC.

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Kalasa Project Division, Khanapur, Belagavi – 591302

The tender Notification No: KNNL/KPD/KNP/PB/TND/2026-27/104-111 Date: 27.04.2026.

SHORT TERM: PERCENTAGE TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Kpp-portal only)

1. Short Term Percentage Tender is invited from eligible KPWD registered Contractor **through KPP-Portal** according to standard tender document rules in prescribed form on behalf of Managing Director, Karnataka Neeravari Nigam Limited, Bengaluru.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Amount put to tender (Exclusive of GST) (In Lakhs)	Category / Class of Contractors
1	Providing infrastructure facilities to Hirebagewadi, Mutanal, Kalarkoppa and Siddanabhavi villages coming under the jurisdiction of Belagavi Rural Constituency under Bagewadi TFS in Belagavi Taluka **(W.I. No. KNNL/2026-27/RD/WORK_ INDENT4332)**	207.38	Class-II & above
2	Providing Infrastructure facility to Hulikavi Village coming under the jurisdiction of Belagavi Rural Constituency under Bagewadi TFS in Belagavi Taluka. **(W.I. No. KNNL/2026-27/RD/WORK_ INDENT4333)**	169.32	Class-III & above
3	Providing Infrastructure facility to Bendigeri Village coming under the jurisdiction of Belagavi Rural Constituency under Bagewadi TFS in Belagavi Taluka. **(W.I. No. KNNL/2026-27/RD/WORK_ INDENT4334)**	338.76	Class-II & above
4	Providing Infrastructure facility to Gajapati Village coming under the jurisdiction of Belagavi Rural Constituency under Bagewadi TFS in Belagavi Taluka. **(W.I. No. KNNL/2026-27/RD/WORK_ INDENT 4343)**	169.32	Class-III & above
5	Imrovements to road from Gojage village to Kowad-Uchagoan main road (Bekkinakeri) in Belagavi Taluka. **(W.I. No. KNNL/2026-27/RD/ WORK_INDENT4344)**	380.98	Class-II & above
6	Providing Infrastructure facility to Halaga Village coming under Bagewadi TFS in Belagavi Taluka. **(W.I. No. KNNL/2026-27/RD/ WORK_INDENT4345)**	422.52	Class-II & above
7	Providing Infrastructure facility to Chandan Hosur and Bastwad Villages coming under Bagewadi TFS in Belagavi Taluka. **(W.I. No. KNNL/2026-27/RD/ WORK_INDENT4346)**	422.60	Class-II & above
8	Improvements of Road from Turamari- Konewadi Main road to Uchagaon Village in Belagavi. **(W.I. No. KNNL/2025-26/RD/ WORK_INDENT4180/Call-2)**	254.06	Class-II & above

2. Details and Tender documents may be downloaded through website **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in/index.seam** and Filled bids for the above works may be submitted through the KPP portal until **08.05.2026, 4:00 PM.**
3. The Pre-bid Meeting will be held in the office of the Executive Engineer, KNNL, Kalasa Project Division Khanapur on **02.05.2026 at 11.00AM**. Technical bid will be opened on **11.05.2026 at 10.30 AM.**
4. For further details such as, EMD amount, time limit, cost of tender form, eligibility for work, terms and conditions of tender visit our website **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or contact the EE, KPD, Khanapur during office hours on any working day.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
KNNL, Kalasa Project Division,
Khanapur, Belagavi

DIPR/Bgm/173/DeshpandePublicity/2026-27

ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಯಚೂರು
ಉಪ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಸಮಾಜ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ ರಾಯಚೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ
"ಡಾ.ಬಿ.ಆರ್.ಅಂಬೇಡ್ಕರ್ & ಡಾ.ಬಾಬು ಜಗಜೀವನ ರಾಮ್ ಭವನ" ರಂಗಮಂದಿರ ಹಿಂದುಗಡೆ
ರಾಯಚೂರು–584101 ಇ–ಮೇಲ್ ವಿಳಾಸ: dsworchr315@gmail.com &
ddswdraichur@gmail.com ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂ: 08532 231091

ಸಂ:ಉನಿ/ಸಕಇರಾ/ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿ/ಡಿ–ಗ್ರೂಪ್/ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್/ಸಿಆರ್–1/2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ:28–04–2026

:: ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ::

ವಿಷಯ:–2026–27 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ರಾಯಚೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಸಮಾಜ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಅಧೀನದಲ್ಲಿ ಬರುವ ಕಛೇರಿ/ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಖಾಲಿ ಇರುವ ಗ್ರೂಪ್–ಸಿ ಮತ್ತು ಗ್ರೂಪ್–ಡಿ ನೌಕರರನ್ನು ಹೊರಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸುವ ಕುರಿತು.

ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ವಿಷಯಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ, 2026–27ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ರಾಯಚೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಸಮಾಜ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಕಚೇರಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಖಾಲಿ ಇರುವ ಗ್ರೂಪ್–ಸಿ ಕಂಪ್ಯೂಟರ್ ಆಪರೇಟರ್‌ಗಳು/ವಾಹನಾ ಚಾಲಕರು ಮತ್ತು ಗ್ರೂಪ್–ಡಿ ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿಯವರು ಹಾಗೂ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಅಧೀನದಲ್ಲಿ ಬರುವ ಮೆಟ್ರಿಕ್ ಪೂರ್ವ, ಮೆಟ್ರಿಕ್ ನಂತರದ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿ ನಿಲಯಗಳಲ್ಲಿ, ವಸತಿ ಶಾಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಖಾಲಿ ಇರುವ ಅಡುಗೆಯವರು, ಅಡುಗೆ ಸಹಾಯಕರು ಮತ್ತು ರಾತ್ರಿ ಕಾವಲುಗಾರರ ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳನ್ನು ತುಂಬಲು ಹೊರ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯಿಂದ ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊರಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಏಜೆನ್ಸಿಯಿಂದ 2026–27ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ಸೇವೆ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕ (KTPP) ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ 1999 ಮತ್ತು ನಿಯಮಗಳು 2000 ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಇವರಿಂದ ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸಿದ ಅರ್ಹ ಹಾಗೂ ಅಂಗೀಕೃತ ಏಜೆನ್ಸಿಗಳು ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು. ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ವಿವರ ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನಂತಿದೆ.

1) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ & ದಿನಾಂಕ ಸಂ: ಉನಿ/ಸಕಇರಾ/ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿ/ಡಿ–ಗ್ರೂಪ್/ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್/ಸಿಆರ್–1/ 2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ:28–04–2026 **2) ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ:** ರೂ.9,48,51,372/–ಗಳು **3) ಇಎಂಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ:** ರೂ.14,22,771/– **4) e-portal ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಲಕೋಟೆಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಪ್ರಾರಂಭ ಮತ್ತು ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ:** 28–04–2026 ರಿಂದ ದಿ: 27–05–2026 ರವರೆಗೆ ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಗಂಟೆಯೊಳಗೆ. **5) ಪೂರ್ವಬಾವಿ ಸಭೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ, ಸಮಯ & ಸ್ಥಳ :**19–05–2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11–00 ಗಂಟೆ ಉಪನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಸಮಾಜ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ ರಾಯಚೂರು (ಸ್ಥಳ & ದಿನಾಂಕ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟಿರುತ್ತದೆ) **6) e-portal ನ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಲಕೋಟೆಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ ದಿ:**29–05–2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11–00 ಗಂಟೆ (ಸ್ಥಳ & ದಿನಾಂಕ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟಿರುತ್ತದೆ) **7) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಲಕೋಟೆ ದಾಖಲಾತಿ ಪರಿಶೀಲನೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸ್ಥಳ:** 08–06–2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11–00 ಗಂಟೆ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಯಚೂರು (ಸ್ಥಳ & ದಿನಾಂಕ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟಿರುತ್ತದೆ) **8) e-portal ನ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಲಕೋಟೆಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ:** 11–06–2026 ರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11–00 ಗಂಟೆ (ಸ್ಥಳ & ದಿನಾಂಕ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟಿರುತ್ತದೆ) **9) ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಕಛೇರಿ ವಿಳಾಸ, ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:** ಉಪನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಸಮಾಜ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ ರಾಯಚೂರು – 08532–231091 ಇ–ಮೇಲ್ dsworchr315@gmail.com & ddswdraichur@gmail.com

ಸಹಿ/– ಉಪನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು
ಸಮಾಜ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ ರಾಯಚೂರು

DIP/RCR/47KSMCA/49/2026-27

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Shivajinagara
Thimmaiah Road, Bengaluru
No:EE/SJN/E-PROC/04/2026-27 Date:29.04.2026

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
(SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION)

(Through GOK e-procuement Portal only)

The Executive Engineer, (Shivaji nagara), Division invites Item Rate tenders on behalf of the Commissioner, BCCC, Bengaluru from eligible Tenderers for the works detailed in the table given below. The tenderers may submit tenders for the works given in the table through e-registered in Bengaluru Central City Corporation/BWSSB/KUSWS&B/PRED/PWD/Railways/MES/any State or Central Govt. Organization.

Sl No.	Name of the works/category
1.	Improvements Drains and Removing of Silt of Rukmini Colony Cross Road and Surrounding Area in Ward No.121 Halasuru (General) **Approx. value of work : Rs.15.00 Lakhs EMD: Rs. 37,500.00**
2.	Providing and Fixing of Name Sign Boards in Ward No.121 Halasuru (General) **Approx. value of work : Rs.15.00 Lakhs EMD: Rs. 37,500.00**
3.	Improvements Roads and Drains at Milk Man Street, Cross Road and Surrounding Area in Ward No.121 Halasuru. (CAT-II (A) Category) **Approx. value of work : Rs.20.00 Lakhs EMD: Rs. 50,000.00**
4.	Construction and Improvements of Drain and Roads near Sadashiva Modaliar Road, Annaiaha Reddy Road, Subbaiah Reddy Road and Surrounding Areas in Ward No.121 Halasuru. (S.T Category) **Approx. value of work : Rs.20.00 Lakhs EMD: Rs. 25,000.00**
5.	Annual maintenance of ward and desilting of drains in Ward No.121 Halasuru for the year 2025-26. (S.T Category) **Approx. value of work : Rs.30.00 Lakhs EMD: Rs. 37,500.00**

Calendar of Events: (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the e-procurement portal of GOK from **02.05.2026.** (2) Last date for uploading the Filled Tender Document is **11.05.2026** upto **4:00** pm. (3) Date of Opening of Tenders is on **12.05.2026** by **4:30** pm. if possible or next working day.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Shivaji Nagara)
Bengaluru Central City Corporation

DECCAN HERALD
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State can't abandon justice at acquittal

Karnataka's criminal justice system is failing some of its most vulnerable citizens, and the evidence is stark. When Chief Minister Siddaramaiah himself admits that the conviction rate in cases under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act is low, it points to a structural collapse. However, what happens after acquittal is even more troubling. A recent study across Tumakuru, Chikkamagaluru, and Raichur reveals an abysmal appeal rate of just 0.2%. In effect, once a trial court dismisses a case, the system simply gives up. This appeal gap is a moral failure. Public prosecutors, tasked with safeguarding victims' interests, appear reluctant to challenge acquittals even when procedural lapses or overlooked evidence are evident. The proposal to subject prosecutors to half-yearly performance reviews is, therefore, a necessary step towards accountability. Without scrutiny, prosecutorial discretion risks degenerating into indifference. For victims, the consequences are devastating. A low conviction rate already erodes faith in the system; a near-total absence of appeals extinguishes it. This not only discourages reporting but also emboldens perpetrators, reinforcing cycles of caste-based violence and impunity.

Extremely low appeal rates in SC/ST atrocity cases expose a system that reinforces caste-based violence

The broader national context underscores the gravity of the problem. States such as Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Odisha consistently report high levels of atrocities against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, ranging from land dispossession and social boycotts to assaults and sexual violence. These are manifestations of entrenched social hierarchies. India's legal framework is robust on paper. Article 17 abolishes untouchability, while Article 15 prohibits caste-based discrimination. These constitutional guarantees are reinforced by statutes such as the Protection of Civil Rights Act and the SC and ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, which provide for enhanced punishments, special courts, and victim rehabilitation. The law recognises that such crimes are not merely individual offences but targeted acts of oppression. Yet, the gap between law and enforcement remains glaring. Investigative lapses, hostile witnesses, and judicial delays weaken cases long before they reach a conclusion, and the near-absence of appeals compounds these failures.

The solution lies in systemic reform. Courts have often criticised the appointment of prosecutors based on political affiliation rather than merit. It is, thus, vital to rigorously evaluate prosecutors and penalise underperformance. Police investigations need professionalisation and insulation from local pressures, while witness protection must become real, not rhetorical. Above all, the State must treat acquittals not as closure but as a checkpoint. Justice cannot end at the trial court; when the State fails to pursue it further, it effectively abandons those it is constitutionally bound to protect.

A trade deal with essential safeguards

India's free trade agreement (FTA) with New Zealand, formalised in New Delhi on Monday, extends a global pattern of rising bilateral trade. The rule-based multilateral trading order has been rendered irrelevant by the weakening of the World Trade Organisation (WTO). Countries are increasingly pursuing bilateral agreements suited to their needs and pegged to mutual areas of interest. Negotiations for the agreement with New Zealand commenced in March 2025 and concluded in December. The deal was signed by India's Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and New Zealand's Trade and Investment Minister Todd McClay. Prime Ministers of both countries hailed the signing as a "historic" step towards deepening trade, investment, and people-to-people ties. The FTA will be operationalised this year after ratification by the New Zealand parliament.

The agreement will see New Zealand removing tariffs on all goods imported from India, while India will remove or reduce tariffs on 95% of imports from that country. Among the imports from New Zealand that have been exempted or marked with reduced tariffs are wool, select electrical and mechanical machinery, wine, pharmaceutical products, and iron and steel articles. However, many items remain excluded, such as dairy and agricultural products, sugar, artificial honey, and gems and jewellery. India has been sensitive to the import of products that could adversely impact domestic sectors like dairy and agriculture, which are sources of livelihood for millions of people. Unrestricted dairy imports from New Zealand, where the sector is very advanced, would go against the interests of India's farmers. Notably, India has been cautious about these domestic interests in its trade agreements with other countries. It is also one of the sticking points in its negotiations with the United States ahead of a proposed trade deal.

India deepens trade and investment with New Zealand, while protecting sensitive domestic sectors

As a developed and high-value market, New Zealand offers opportunities to Indian manufacturers in sectors such as agriculture, textiles, pharmaceuticals, engineering goods, services, including IT and ITES, education, and healthcare. New Zealand's commitment of a $20-billion investment in India over the next 15 years will augment efforts to develop industrial infrastructure and manufacturing ecosystems in the country. The FTA also includes provisions relating to the mobility of working professionals and students from India. New Zealand is emerging as a favoured destination for education and employment. The agreement envisages a doubling of bilateral trade by 2031. It has been welcomed widely in both countries and will hopefully provide a boost to India's exports, which have recently seen a slowdown.

RIGHTS VS IMAGINED ROLES

Can the State decide when a woman must give birth?

By affirming women's bodily autonomy, the Supreme Court sets the tone for clearer laws on later-term abortions

MANDAR PRAKHAR AND JWALIKA BALAJI

In January this year, the Bombay High Court told an 18-year-old girl that although she did not want to continue with her 28-week pregnancy, she must. The court reasoned that since the foetus is viable, she can give it up for adoption after delivery. In doing so, the court effectively turned her body into a constitutional waiting room for someone else's moral imagination.

The facts of the case are concerning. By the time the girl's mother petitioned, the statutory limit had passed, and the High Court dismissed the plea. The rationale was that "the minor daughter had attained majority as of the date of the order," and termination at this stage would amount to foeticide. This reasoning reeked of a patriarchal instinct to preserve a foetus over the woman carrying it.

The Supreme Court, in *A (Mother of X) vs. State of Maharashtra*, did something more than overturn the order. It exposed a structural fault line, one that prompts a staggering question: whether women are rights-bearing citizens or a mere conduit through which society negotiates its anxieties about morality, sex, and, particularly, life.

This issue demands renewed attention, particularly as the apex court deals with another case with nearly identical circumstances. In authorising the termination of a 15-year-old Delhi girl's pregnancy beyond 28 weeks, the Court has made it evident that forcing a woman to continue with an unwanted pregnancy undermines her dignity and decisional autonomy, effectively reducing her to a vessel for the unborn.

Penned by Justice B V Nagarathna, the judgment is notable not only because it permitted the termination of the pregnancy but also because it rejected the paternalistic idea that increasingly subordinates reproductive autonomy when foetal rights are invoked. The judgment countered the judicial signposting of the pregnant woman as secondary to her pregnancy, holding that a woman's right to bodily and decisional autonomy cannot be eclipsed merely because a foetus is viable.

As the judge notes, this clarity contrasts with the lived realities of women entangled in family, caste, and religion, which often limit how these women exercise bodily autonomy, particularly their reproductive autonomy. These constraints are further reinforced by the legal barriers restricting access to safe abortion. The choice to continue or terminate a pregnancy is never abstract; it is rooted in complex circumstances that only women can navigate. Reproductive autonomy demands the legal recognition of her right to freely decide without a third party deciding for her. Therefore, this case is not just an ordinary abortion case; it is about who the Constitution views as a full moral agent: a foetus or the woman who carries it.

The apex court in the present case

held that the foetus cannot be conceptually conceived as a separate legal entity to erase the constitutional standing of the woman who is carrying it. This perspective gains greater significance when read against the backdrop of a dangerous global trend. Across jurisdictions, abortion restrictions emerge from morality, viability, or State interest, most strongly instantiated by the post-Dobbs landscape in the United States, a cautionary tale of detaching abortion rights from a woman's autonomy.

India, having woven abortion within Article 21's constitutional architecture of dignity, integrity, and privacy, narrates a different story. From *Suchita Srivastava vs. Chandigarh Administration*, which located reproductive choice within personal liberty, and *X vs. Health and Family Welfare Department*, expanding it beyond marital unions, this case helps negate advanced gestation as a ground to nullify autonomy.

Pathways to reform

This milestone is significant, given the paradoxical terrain of India's abortion law. Though the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act is often described as progressive, it remains structurally doctor-centric, meaning women do not possess abortion rights in the fullest constitutional sense. Instead, they must navigate gestational thresholds, statutory barriers, and approvals by medical boards. Access beyond statutory limits can become a judicial lottery, dependent on how tragically the woman is affected or whether hospitals possess the expertise to perform the procedure.

On both grounds, the reality paints a saddening picture. First, for minors, marginalised women or survivors of sexual violence, approaching courts is itself an immense burden, making autonomy illusory. Second, India's severe public health crisis surrounding safe abortion pushes thousands towards unsafe, clandestine procedures to avoid institutional barriers and delay. Legal paternalism, therefore, often fails women both constitutionally and practically.

The Bombay High Court's suggestion to give up the child for adoption also invites scrutiny. Framing adoption as an alternative erases the coercion of forced gestation and the trauma, stigma, and psychological violence of compelled pregnancy. This case highlights that autonomy cannot be solely understood as choosing what happens after birth, but also choosing whether childbirth happens at all. The verdict also confronts the unspoken Indian obsession with sexual morality. The stigma around "illegitimate" pregnancy, social shame, and female respectability continue to shadow legal discourse. However, we are yet to see how the Constitution protects individuals from such social conservatism.

This case will, of course, meet objections. Critics will argue for childbirth either for foetal viability or for moral concerns. But the baseline is that the verdict does not endorse unrestricted abortions; it simply refuses viability as a ground to dilute a woman's agency, an 18-year-old in this case. This distinction is both crucial and important.

The larger concern now is legislative manifestation. This case should not become another celebrated judgment; it should force a reckoning. India needs clearer legal standards for later-term abortions that focus on consent, trauma, and dignity, not just foetal abnormality. The Supreme Court, at least in this case, chose personhood over paternalism. The rest of the State must now decide whether it will do the same.

(Mandar is an associate fellow, and Jwalika is a research fellow at the Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

The tea that drank up the night

The break was a heavenly gateway, a welcome pause – but not for long

S RAMAKRISHNA

A few months ago, we celebrated our son's marriage to his soulmate—now our dear daughter-in-law. I had invited some of my college hostel mates to the wedding. Meeting the core group after decades felt surreal.

Within the first few minutes, we effortlessly slipped back into our hostel avatars. Yours truly was the prime target of the old boys' group. Every funny mannerism I owned in that era was promptly recalled and put on display.

It took me back to our hostel days in the mid-1980s, when we were in the first year of engineering at Kolar Gold Fields. The hostel stood at the dead end of the town, with no eatery, bakery or tea stall in the vicinity.

The torturous grind of competitive exams during the pre-university course had taken its toll on our psyche. After securing an engineering seat, most of us had completely loosened up. Academic studies in the first year became our last priority. Studying began on a strictly mandatory basis only before the final exams. The preparatory holidays, stretching to more than a month, were sheer fun. We spent our days on sports, wasteful pursuits, or, worse still, no activity at all.

It was a common fallacy among us that late-night hours were the best for studying—cool, serene, and therefore conducive. Barely two hours into the ordeal, however, our eyelids would grow heavy under the humongous weight of sleep.

So the seven of us in our hostel block took an executive decision: a short tea break at midnight to sustain us for another two hours of study. The prankster trio in the neighbouring room set the plan in motion. The executive chef was Kumar. His two roommates cleverly donned the roles of sous chef and materials procurement-cum-accounts manager. The rest of us served as dishwashers on a rotation basis.

For context, today Kumar is a successful self-made businessman, and his two roommates are top honchos in the corporate world. Ahem! Let's talk about the erstwhile dishwashers some other time.

Well, returning to the flashback, the tea break was a heavenly gateway, a welcome pause from the monotony of the night's study hours. We would gossip and debate over entirely worthless issues over hot tea.

Within a week, the tea break, meant to last no more than half an hour, began to stretch—poisonously—to an hour, thanks to our addictive chatter. In the days that followed, the tea break mutated into a time-guzzling dinosaur that hungrily chomped through our precious study hours.

The fear of the fast-approaching exams, coupled with mounting syllabi, rudely snapped us awake to the perils of continuing the midnight ritual.

The midnight study-tea break was a sham, defeating its very purpose. Alas, the tea ceremony was aborted forthwith, with heavy hearts.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Fear of dissent or fear of debate?

It would appear rather strange and dubious that members of the world's largest political party are afraid of a discussion on a book that includes articles by a former JNU student who is presently in Tihar jail. Umar Khalid and others have been accused of crimes against the nation. Are we such a small and petty nation that we would easily succumb to a student's words at a university protest? Strangely, none of the opposition political parties and the public seem to believe that India is on the verge of disintegration. Unfortunately, it would appear that the ruling party needs a victim —an individual or a group—to brand as anti-national, solely to keep people away from debating and deliberating on more important issues that require greater focus, attention and public participation . They keep the pot boiling and twist the narrative through "allegations" which rarely stand up to legal scrutiny.

Hemachandra Basappa, Bengaluru

Tighten defection laws

Apropos 'Defection and the ruse of idealism' (Apr 29), the Rajya Sabha chairman's acceptance of the merger of seven rebel AAP MPs with the BJP highlights the nature of the AAP, the crass opportunism of the turncoats, the machinations of the BJP, and the institutionalised defanging of the anti-defection law. Since 2014, the BJP has secured majorities in several states through horse-trading, giving short shrift to anti-defection provisions. The situation clearly warrants an alternative system. It is time the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution was amended to make all forms of defection illegal, including so-called 'two-thirds mergers'.

S S Paul, Nadia (WB)

The US must act

Apropos 'Iran offers to open Hormuz Strait if US lifts blockade' (Apr 28), Iran has conditionally agreed to lift its blockade of the Strait of Hormuz if the US reciprocates by ending its naval blockade and stopping the seizure of Iranian ships traversing it. While US President Donald Trump has agreed to send his emissaries for talks with Iran, he has stated that the US blockade would remain. If he is serious about ending the war, he should, while expecting Iran to agree to his terms and conditions, also meet Iran's expectations.

C V Aravind, Bengaluru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

The exit polls are baseless...They have nothing to do with the ground reality...We will win more than 235 seats and the BJP will not even win more than 50 seats.

Kunal Ghosh, TMC leader

Don't worry about polls, but if you do, don't admit it.

Rosalynn Carter

TO BE PRECISE

PM's entourage.

IN PERSPECTIVE

A new grammar of excise

Linking taxation to alcohol content, Karnataka shifts from stringent controls to behavioural incentives

RAJESHWARI U R

Karnataka has long held a reputation as one of India's most progressive states in economic policy and administrative innovation. From pioneering the growth of information technology in Bengaluru to experimenting with fiscal reforms, the state has repeatedly acted as a testing ground for ideas that later shape national policy. The newly unveiled Excise Reforms 2026 continue this tradition, positioning Karnataka as a policy laboratory in one of the most complex and politically sensitive sectors of governance: alcohol regulation.

At its core, the new excise framework departs from legacy systems rooted in tight State control. For decades, excise policy across Indian states has been characterised by rigid price controls, fragmented taxation structures and high levels of administrative discretion. Karnataka's reform breaks from this model by introducing a more rational, market-oriented and transparent approach. In doing so, it offers a live experiment in how far liberalisation can be extended in a sector that sits at the intersection of revenue generation and social responsibility.

One of the most striking elements of the reform is the transition to an alcohol-in-beverage (AIB) taxation system. By linking excise duty directly to the amount of pure alcohol in a product, the state has adopted a principle widely recommended in public finance theory but rarely implemented with clarity in India. This shift signals a move towards evidence-based policymaking, where taxation is aligned with measurable indicators of harm rather than arbitrary classifications. Stronger alcoholic beverages, which are more closely associated with adverse health and social outcomes, will now attract higher taxation, while lower-strength alternatives may become relatively more affordable.

This design is not merely technical; it reflects a deliberate attempt to internalise social costs within the pricing structure. By embedding public health considerations into taxation, the policy creates a subtle behavioural incentive, encouraging moderation and a gradual shift towards lower-risk consumption patterns. Rather than relying solely on prohibitive restrictions, Karnataka is using fiscal policy as a corrective tool, aligning individual choices with broader societal welfare.

A move beyond control

The reform also marks a broader philosophical shift from command-and-control governance to a framework that relies on incentives and competition. The move towards market-determined pricing is emblematic of this transition. By reducing direct State intervention in price setting, the policy allows market signals to function more effectively. At the same time, the State retains its role as a regulator, ensuring that fiscal instruments continue to reflect the social costs associated with alcohol consumption.

Another dimension of the reform lies in administrative modernisation. The emphasis on digitisation, streamlined licensing and improved tracking mechanisms reflects a recognition that governance capacity is as important as policy design. By reducing human discretion and increasing transparency, Karnataka aims to minimise leakages and strengthen enforcement against illicit trade—an important step in protecting consumers from unsafe, unregulated alcohol that often carries far greater health risks.

What distinguishes Karnataka's approach is its attempt to strike a balance between fiscal objectives and social costs. Excise duties are a major source of revenue, and any reform in this sector has budgetary implications. Yet the policy acknowledges that alcohol consumption imposes significant externalities, including healthcare burdens, accidents and impacts on household welfare. By linking taxation to alcohol content and strengthening regulatory oversight, the state is attempting to ensure that these costs are not ignored but are reflected in the economic structure of the market.

The broader significance of Karnataka's excise reforms lies in their potential demonstration effect. In India's federal structure, states often learn from each other's policy experiments. If Karnataka's model succeeds in balancing revenue growth with controlled social outcomes, it could serve as a template for other states seeking to modernise their excise systems without exacerbating public health concerns. Conversely, if the reforms lead to unintended consequences such as excessive consumption or market distortions, they will underscore the challenges of managing "sin goods" through liberalised frameworks.

It is also worth noting that Karnataka's experiment comes at a time when India's states are under increasing fiscal pressure. With limited avenues for raising non-tax revenue, excise remains a critical tool. By refining its approach rather than merely increasing rates, Karnataka is attempting to extract greater efficiency from an existing revenue source while embedding safeguards that address long-term social costs. This reflects a shift from short-term revenue maximisation to a more sustainable and balanced fiscal strategy.

(The writer is an associate professor at the Department of Economics, Christ [deemed to be] University)

Malegaon blast cases: Two decades, two terror attacks and zero convictions

DATELINE Mumbai

MRITYUNJAY BOSE

Nearly two decades after two terror strikes within two years, the communally sensitive, Muslim-majority powerloom town of Malegaon still awaits justice, with zero convictions and a complex puzzle that remains unsolved. The discharge and acquittals in the two cases—delivered within a year—have weakened the once-prominent 'Hindu terror' or 'saffron terror' narrative, even as they raise deeper questions about the integrity and direction of the investigations.

Twenty years on, the twin attacks that scarred Malegaon in 2006 and 2008 have left more questions than answers, putting the spotlight on investigative agencies and the judicial system. The cases rank among the most politically and communally sensitive terror probes in recent Indian history.

They have seen dramatic twists and turns, illustrating how regime changes, competing narratives, multiple agencies, and procedural lapses can derail even the most serious criminal prosecutions. Over time, the cases were probed by the Nashik Rural Police, the Maharashtra Police's Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS), the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), and later the National Investigation Agency (NIA), reflecting a fragmented and evolving investigation.

Spread across 68 sq km, Malegaon, a tehsil town in Nashik district about 290 km from Mumbai, is known for its textile units and industrial activity. With a population of around five lakh, it has long been communally sensitive.

The two terror strikes

Malegaon-I: On September 8, 2006, during Shab-e-Baraat, three blasts at Bada Kabrastan, Mushawrat Chowk and Hamidiya Masjid killed 37 people and injured over 312. ATS carried out the initial investigations before the case was handed over to the CBI and subsequently to the NIA after its formation. The suspected involvement of the banned Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI), with alleged support from Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba, formed the early line of investigation.

Malegaon-II: On September 29, 2008, on the eve of Navratri during Ramzan, a blast near Bhikkhu Chowk killed six people and injured 101. The ATS led the initial probe, later joined by the NIA. In contrast to 2006, suspicion shifted to Hindu fundamentalist groups such as Abhinav Bharat, marking a sharp change in the investigative narrative.

Soon after the 2008 Malegaon blast, Mumbai witnessed the Pakistan-sponsored fidayeen attack of November 26–29, 2008. Among those killed was Special Inspector General of Police and ATS chief Hemant Karkare, who had been closely monitoring the Malegaon probe. His death cast a long shadow over the future course of the investigation.

Malegaon-I - 13 accused discharged: Within days of the 2006 blast, the ATS arrested several alleged SIMI operatives. The CBI, after taking over the case, filed additional charge sheets to strengthen the prosecution. Some of the accused were also suspected to have links with the July 11, 2006 Mumbai suburban train bombings (7/11), as well as the Aurangabad arms and RDX haul case, indicating a possible wider terror network. However, the probe took a dramatic turn in April 2010 following the arrest of Swami Aseemanand, whose confession suggested an alternative conspiracy involving Sunil Joshi, who had been murdered in Madhya Pradesh in 2007.

In 2011, the NIA arrested four more accused, all of whom were granted bail in 2019. In a significant development, on April 22, 2026, a division bench of the Bombay High Court comprising Chief Justice Shree Chandrashekhar and Justice Shyam C Chandak set aside the September 30, 2025 order of the NIA court that had framed charges against them, leading to their discharge. This ruling has effectively brought the 2006 case to a close.

Malegaon-II - Seven acquitted, five discharged: Following the 2008 blast, remarks by certain Congress leaders referring to 'saffron terrorism' triggered intense political debate and sharp criticism from the BJP and allied organisations. The case soon became a flashpoint in national politics.

On July 31, 2025, Special NIA Judge Abhay Lahoti acquitted seven accused—citing lack of evidence — including former BJP MP Pragya Singh Thakur, former Military Intelligence officer Lt Col Prasad Purohit, Sudhakar Dhar Dwivedi alias Dayanand Pandey, Maj Ramesh Upadhyaya (retd), Sameer Kulkarni, Ajay Rahirkar, and Sudhakar Onkarnath Chaturvedi.

Earlier, in 2017, five other accused—Shivnarayan Kalsangra, Shyamlal Sahu, Pravin Takalki alias Mutalik, Rakesh Dattatreya Dhawade, and Jagdish Chintaman Mhatre—had been discharged. Meanwhile, two key suspects, Ramji Kalsangra and Sandeep Dange, believed to have planted the bomb, remain absconding. Investigators were also unable to conclusively link the LML Freedom motorcycle used in the blast to Pragya Singh Thakur, weakening a crucial piece of evidence.

With both the Malegaon-I and Malegaon-II cases now effectively closed, a fundamental question persists: who carried out the attacks? The shifting course of investigations, marked by changes in agencies, evolving theories, and inconsistent evidence, appears to have contributed significantly to the collapse of both cases. **DHNS**

The United Arab Emirates' decision to leave OPEC has rocked the region, underscoring how the country, at odds with Saudi Arabia, is increasingly charting its own course

VIVIAN NEREIM AND ISMAEEL NAAR

The OPEC pavilion at the United Nations climate summit in Dubai. The UAE withdrew from the OPEC and OPEC+ oil cartels calling it a strategic decision by the major producer. FILE PHOTO/AFP

Abu Dhabi's oil gamble shakes regional order

As Saudi Arabia prepared to host a summit of Gulf Arab leaders on Tuesday, political commentators in the neighbouring United Arab Emirates began furiously dropping hints online that major news was coming.

For weeks, Emirati officials had been openly expressing frustration with their Arab neighbours, complaining about their weak stance towards Iran, which had fired thousands of missiles and drones at Gulf countries in response to US and Israeli bombing. Analysts wondered if the Emirates would demonstrate that displeasure at the summit.

Then, just as Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman commenced the meeting, the Emirati government dropped a bombshell from hundreds of miles away: it announced that it was leaving OPEC, a cartel of oil-producing countries that wields sway over global energy prices.

Emirati officials said they were doing so in order to unilaterally increase their oil production and meet the market's long-term needs, but the fact that OPEC's *de facto* leader is Saudi Arabia was lost on no one in the region.

Whether the timing of the announcement was intentional or coincidental, it was a potent symbol of the recent, tectonic shifts reshaping the Middle East, which have only accelerated during the war. By pulling away from OPEC, the Emirati government demonstrated that it is willing to make dramatic moves in its own interests, and will not be constrained by traditional alliances and conventions.

"It is an Emirati declaration of independence," said Kristin Diwan, a senior resident scholar at the Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington, a research organisation. "They no longer feel beholden to institutions that don't align with their interests."

The advent of an unbound Emirates has implications for markets, economies and conflicts around the world. With more than $2 trillion in sovereign wealth, the tiny country has cultivated influence far beyond its borders.

In an interview with *The New York Times* on Tuesday, the Emirati energy minister, Suhail Al Mazrouei, suggested that the decision to withdraw from OPEC had "nothing to do with any specific producer." Saudi Arabia and the Emirates are "brothers," standing together during the crisis caused by the war, he added. Yet it is undeniable that the Emirates — a major oil exporter and close US ally — has increasingly been going its own way in the region.

"What we're seeing today is like a new UAE," said Abdulkhaleq Abdulla, a prominent Emirati political scientist. "This is how the UAE will be behaving, and will be conducting itself regionally, globally."

In recent years, Emirati officials have spoken of the importance of pursuing their own economic interests, chafing at quotas set by OPEC that curtailed their oil production.

They have deepened their alliance with Israel, while other Arab governments keep their distance or pull further away from it.

In Yemen, the Emirates has supported an armed insurgency, angering Saudi leaders, who back the government there.

And in Sudan's brutal civil war, where Saudi Arabia and Egypt support the government, the Emirates has backed a rival paramilitary group. Emirati officials have denied sending weapons to the Sudanese group, the Rapid Support Forces, despite extensive evidence to the contrary.

The rift between Saudi Arabia and the Emirates has been developing for years and extends to the highest levels of the two governments.

Crown Prince Mohammed and the Emirati leader, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, were once close partners, joining forces in 2015 to fight the Houthi rebels in Yemen, but they have since diverged significantly, pursuing different visions for the future of the Middle East that have come into conflict with each other. That rupture burst into public view in December, but appears to have hardened during the war with Iran.

Since the US-Israeli assault began on February 28, Iran has directed the brunt of its retaliation at Gulf countries that host US military installations.

Instead of uniting the Gulf states against a common enemy, the Iranian attacks appear to have helped splinter the region.

As Gulf Arab officials weigh how to respond to Iran, the Emirates has taken measures to sever its long-standing cultural and economic ties with the country. Saudi Arabia, which has faced fewer and less damaging attacks, has condemned Iran strongly, but has supported efforts led by Pakistan to find a diplomatic resolution to the war — an initiative from which the Emirates has kept some distance.

Emirati officials have spoken repeatedly of their dissatisfaction with Arab and Islamic multilateral organisations, hinting that they would have preferred a stronger stance against Iran.

"Every Gulf state had its own policy of containment toward Iran, and all of those containment policies have failed," Anwar Gargash, a senior Emirati official, said at a conference in Dubai on Monday. "All our policies have failed miserably."

Gulf solidarity "was not at the level of the challenge" that the war presented, he said.

The Gulf countries are also reckoning with how to handle their relationship with the United States, which could not fully protect them from the barrage of Iranian attacks, despite being their main security guarantor for decades.

"All of the states in the region have been adapting to the fact that the United States is not going to provide the kind of security umbrella that they had come to appreciate," Diwan said. "It requires each state to kind of chart its own direction — and they haven't been able to align."

These trends coalesced with Tuesday's announcement.

For years, oil policy has been a visible source of tensions between the Emirates and Saudi Arabia. The Emirates appears to favour a strategy of maximising its oil production — in effect, selling as much of its oil as it can before energy markets move on from fossil fuels. On the other hand, Saudi Arabia generally seeks higher oil prices in the long term, a strategy that sometimes requires constraining the production of OPEC members, including the Emirates.

A much larger and more oil-dependent country, Saudi Arabia needs higher revenue in order to fund its government budget, as well as the crown prince's ambitious and expensive plans to turn the kingdom into a business and tourism hub.

"While Saudi Arabia aims to sustain oil markets for the next century, the UAE feels no such urgency," said Bachar El-Halabi, senior analyst in Dubai for Argus Media, a commodities research firm.

The decision to withdraw from OPEC and increase oil production — even if the Emirates faces barriers to exporting more barrels as long as the war continues — could also please Trump administration officials, who are facing political pressure from high energy prices.

Reflecting their government's desire to chart its own course, Emirati officials and pro-government commentators have been speculating about what could come next. Some say the Emirates could withdraw from the Arab League, the Gulf Cooperation Council or the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, all of which are regional multilateral groups.

Abdulla, the political scientist, said he would not rule out a decision on the Arab League soon — perhaps a freeze of membership or a halt on Emirati financing to the organisation, if not a total withdrawal.

For years, the Emirates had remained in OPEC "out of deference to Saudi Arabia," Diwan said. Tuesday's news makes it clear that "they will no longer defer to Saudi leadership."

The New York Times

Hind Rajab and the weight of our silence

PARINITHA SHETTY

If there is one movie that represents the depths to which humanity has sunk in our times, it is *The Voice of Hind Rajab*. However, even as it depicts the depravity of humankind, the film also depicts how the most monstrous human cruelty can evoke immense kindness and love. As we hear the voice of the little child Hind Rajab, relentlessly asking to be taken away from the car in which her cousins, uncles and aunts lie dead around her, we unspool. The hard indifference that we have cultivated to blind us to the cruelties that the powerful are capable of inflicting and taking pleasure in breaks into shards that prick our vision and make it bleed.

The Voice of Hind Rajab shatters the sedimented layers of indifference, hate, cruelty, and self-protection which we have built around ourselves as a kind of armour. The dead children of Gaza speak to us through that voice. That voice relentlessly strips the layers and layers of hard, callous indifference that we have carefully nurtured to form a hard crust of indifference over our moral conscience. Peel by peel, those layers are pulled off by the voice of a terrified child until our moral conscience is laid bare to the serrated edge of a child's voice.

We realise that a deadly cancerous silence has spread through us and through the body politic, slowly killing the capacity for empathy and tenderness that sustains human beings with happiness and love.

We recognise our complicity in the horrible brutality that has been inflicted on the children of Gaza. By not rejecting that brutality, by not screaming with pain when touched by it, and by not condemning the evil that perpetrates it day after day, we have become complicit with that evil. Hind Rajab's voice makes us realise how a terrible indifference has permeated into us and made us immune to the sight of children being maimed and killed and butchered and orphaned. We have become inured to the ordinariness of brutality and violence.

The voices of love and protection reach out to Hind Rajab from the fragile bright space of the Palestine Red Crescent. But her terrifying loneliness, the loneliness of her breathing amidst the still silence of her dead family, and the loneliness of her terror surrounded by tanks and guns shatter the control of that control room, and they, like us, are unravelled by that persistent child's voice asking for the protection that the adults in her world have promised her but are helpless to give her.

The Voice of Hind Rajab tears to shreds the clichés through which we construct our political speeches, our moral sermons and lessons on what it is to be human. In the loneliness of that car surrounded by corpses, Hind Rajab again and again pleads for someone to come to her and take her away. And that voice restores to us our terrible helplessness and vulnerability in a world that we have created, a world in which we cannot respond to the voice of a child asking us to allow her to live, begging us to help her to live.

Hind Rajab's voice reminds us that we who have brought children into our world can never abrogate our responsibility towards them. That we bear the responsibility of building and sustaining a world that will sustain our children, that will cherish them and protect their childhood. That we have to nurture a hearing and a listening that can be alerted by the serrated edges of a child's voice crying out in pain. That if we allow our capacity to be touched by a child's voice pleading with fear for help to be blunted, then we are on the brink of destroying our world. That giving full rein to our greed and cruelty and demonic desire for power and domination will lead to the killing of all the children and all that is childlike in our world. And once that is done, there will be nothing to save us from ourselves.

We have to listen to Hind Rajab's voice if we are not to become monstrous and depraved. We have to suffer listening to her voice if we are to regain our capacity to suffer the searing pain of love and to be brittle with tenderness. We have to listen to Hind Rajab's voice if we are to be saved as a species.

The voice of a child speaking against death, against the horror of war, against the helplessness of the adults she believed would protect her, should be a call to us, like the call to prayer. A prayer to ourselves and for our world to restore to us the capacity to be bruised, hurt, and unskinned by the voice of a child. We will be able to hear the many voices of love and tenderness only if we are able to listen to the voice of Hind Rajab and be dismantled by it.

(The writer is a professor at the Department of English, Mangalore University)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: APRIL 1976

War on numbers to be waged in 'mature manner'

New Delhi, April 29
Health and Family Planning Minister Karan Singh today assured the Lok Sabha that the National Population Policy evolved by the government in a "mature manner" after careful consideration and prolonged deliberations at all levels, would be implemented in a mature manner. At the same time, he cautioned the members against "certain elements" who were trying to mislead the people and said the Government would not tolerate any "sectoral or sectional" approach to family planning.

25 YEARS AGO: APRIL 2001

Keep off policy issues, India tells IMF

Washington, April 29 (UNI)
India today warned the IMF against any move to extend the scope of conditionalities for providing assistance to developing countries by including policy issues relating to poverty and governance. The fund would do well to confine itself to its core areas of expertise of monetary, fiscal and financial policies during the ongoing exercise to streamline it, Finance Minister Yashwant Sinha said in his address to the financial committee of the Fund.

OASIS | MEERA SESHADRI

The limits of circumstance, the endurance of values

Recently, at a social event, someone was heard saying, "Last Sunday, I had a severe showdown with my servant due to her shoddy working style for not showing up for several days without prior notice. Compounding my agony was my callous chauffeur, who coolly quit, despite having been cocooned in comforts here. It is simply because of such folks that I am springing into splenetic moods, being short-fused always. After all, we are the agglomerated product of awful circumstances, right?"

This statement had set me into some serious contemplation. Yes, often we rationalise our not-so-remarkable traits as being the 'result' of people's supposedly repulsive actions. Apparently, we are adept at justifying, having amply aced that art.

Sample this: "Always on anger bouts with an affinity for arguments?" Our response – "Well, that is all due to the atrocious atmosphere at the workplace." "Machinating and meanly manipulative?" "Yeah, it is mainly because of malicious folks everywhere." "Skinflint, and not spending even a single penny on others?" "It is my terribly miserly associates, truly triggering that tight-fisted trait in me."

Here, I am reminded of a college-mate who had this composed persona, with a caring and convivial attitude. Call it a freakish fate, while in her feisty teens, she fell prey to a fire accident, the fallout of which left scars near her face. Even more ghastly was having to lose her grown-up daughter in a gruesome incident.

Recently, upon requiring some information, I reached out to her. She was her usual unflappable self, unfailingly answering my umpteen queries with her unmitigated patience and unqualified helping attitude. Despite the dreadful tragedy, she had doggedly gone about doing her duties with dollops of diligence. And there was not a dot of disgust displayed at the dreadful vicissitudes of life.

As our chat ended, I was rather enlightened about this exquisite human aspect – the external factors, especially the extreme evil ones, to an extent, can exert an impact on us. But, whatsoever, it cannot erase/extinguish one's embedded qualities or entrenched values with which one is born.

There is truth in the Malayalam dictum – *Chottayile sheelam chudala vare* (habits from the cradle to the grave). Meaning, qualities cultivated in childhood get cleaved and carried till the cremation ground.

Partition to deletion: Elders left off the list

Families cite errors, mismatches as reasons for sudden disenfranchisement

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
KOLKATA, DHNS

"*Amar vote kete diechhe* (They took away my right to vote)," Subarna Bala Poddar mumbles, as her daughter, Sandhya Poddar, supports the frail 95-year-old to sit up on the bamboo mat she was lying on. "*Amar sab kagaj achhe... tabu amar vote keno ketechhe... ami jani na keno* (I have all the documents, but they still struck me off the electoral roll. I don't know why)."

WEST BENGAL
Assembly Poll

Subarna Bala, born in 1931, migrated from East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) with her family soon after Partition in 1947. Narkeldanga North Road in Beleghata, Kolkata, has been her home for decades. She had voted at Deshbandhu Vidyapith, a nearby school, before advancing age led her to opt for the home voting facility introduced by the Election Commission for voters aged 85 and above.

Subarna Bala Poddar (R) with her daughter Sandhya.
PHOTO CREDIT: JAYANTA SHAW

This time, however, no official visited her cramped dwelling. In the twilight of her life, as she struggles with ill health, she has been left out of the electoral rolls following the SIR exercise.

Even as Beleghata and 141 other Assembly seats across seven districts voted on Wednesday, Subarna spent the day as she would any other—lying on a bamboo mat in her small room.

"They came to collect my mother's vote in May 2024 (for the Lok Sabha elections). But nobody came this time. We later learnt her name had been deleted from the electoral rolls," says Sandhya, showing her mother's Aadhaar and voter ID. "What we have heard is that it could be due to a mismatch in the spelling of her name in the electoral roll and her bank passbook."

Sandhya has just returned after casting her vote. "I will take you to vote next time," she tells her mother — a promise she knows she may not be able to keep.

Chhapia Bibi Sheikh, from Kalna in Purba Bardhaman, faced a similar fate. The 101-year-old had voted from home during the May 2024 parliamentary elections. But this time, no official came to collect her ballot. Her name, too, was struck off the electoral rolls during the revision exercise, along with those of her two grandsons.

She had hoped that appeals filed before a tribunal would restore their names in time. That hope was belied. As Kalna went to the polls, neither she nor her grandsons could vote.

Nuns of the Missionaries of Charity wait in a queue to cast their votes during the second phase of the West Bengal Assembly elections, in Kolkata, on Wednesday. PTI

ISKCON monks dance while on their way to a polling station to cast their votes in Kolkata. PTI

A security personnel manages crowd after fresh tension gripped the area during voting, with the Indian Secular Front alleging intimidation of polling agents and attempts to influence voters by TMC workers, in South 24 Parganas. PTI

TMC MP Saayoni Ghosh shows her ink-marked finger. PTI

Voters arrive to cast votes at a polling booth during the West Bengal Assembly elections in Purba Bardhaman district on Wednesday. PTI

Gesture of political warmth stands out in Nadia

KOLKATA, PTI: Amid fierce contests and bitter exchanges of words during West Bengal's second and final phase of polling on Wednesday, a rare scene of political warmth stood out in Nadia.

A BJP candidate's gesture of goodwill towards rival Trinamool Congress workers at their camp emerged as an unlikely moment of civility.

The BJP's Nabadwip candidate and Hindu preacher, Shruti Shekhar Goswami, was seen interacting cordially with local TMC activists at their polling camp.

"Everyone is free to do politics of their choice throughout the day, but in the evening, people (of different political beliefs) should be able to sit together and have tea. Why should personal relationships be destroyed?" he said.

Mamata vs Suvendu: Bhabanipur feels the heat as rivals trade barbs, supporters clash

KOLKATA, DHNS

Mamata Banerjee and her aide-turned-adversary Suvendu Adhikari crossed paths in Bhabanipur, the scene of the battle royale between the two, as the constituency went to the polls, along with 141 others, on Wednesday, but had no exchange of pleasantries.

Mamata's supporters raised slogans targeting Adhikari, albeit elsewhere in the constituency. His aides also responded, and the paramilitary forces dispersed the agitated supporters of both sides.

Mamata was out on a tour across Bhabanipur since morning on Wednesday, travelling from one polling station to another. She reached Chakraberia, where the BJP's workers allegedly tore some posters and flags of the TMC.

She alleged that the central paramilitary force had raided the nearby residence of Asim Basu, a local TMC leader and a member of the Kolkata Municipal Council, on Tuesday night, when he was not at home. "Only his wife and their child were at home. She was threatened by paramilitary personnel," Mamata said.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee shows victory sign after voting. PTI

BJP candidate Suvendu Adhikari visits a polling station in his constituency. PTI

A few minutes later, Adhikari, the de facto chief ministerial candidate of the BJP, arrived at the scene, preceded by some paramilitary personnel. "She is not getting any votes. She has been travelling across the constituency since morning. This is a sign of her frustration," Adhikari. "Her party has been rejected by people, and, due to the arrangement made by the Election Commission, her workers are not able to do any manipulation inside the polling booths, unlike previous years."

Adhikari quit the TMC to join the BJP in December 2020. He beat Mamata in Nandigram in the 2021 Assembly elections.

When he reached a polling station near the Kali Temple of Kalighat, TMC workers raised slogans against him. They also raised the TMC's war cry 'Joy Bangla'. BJP workers accompanying Adhikari responded by raising the "Jai Sri Ram" slogan. As tension escalated, the paramilitary personnel intervened and resorted to a brief baton charge to disperse the supporters of the two sides.

"I will win in Bhabanipur by a margin of at least 20,000 votes," Adhikari said later.

Mamata said that she would win Bhabanipur and the TMC would retain power in West Bengal, notwithstanding the partisan role of the Election Commission and the paramilitary personnel.

700 companies of central forces to stay in Bengal after polls

KOLKATA, PTI: Around 700 companies of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) will continue to remain deployed across West Bengal after the completion of polling, an Election Commission official said on Wednesday.

The continued presence of the central forces is aimed at maintaining peace and ensuring that no untoward incidents take place in the post-poll period, he said.

"As per the EC's deployment plan issued on March 19, after completion of poll today, 700 companies of CAPF shall continue to remain deployed in the state for security arrangements and law and order duties, till further orders," he said.

"The forces will be stationed in sensitive areas and will assist the state administration in maintaining normalcy," he added.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah had on Monday said that central forces would stay in Bengal for 60 days after the polls.

Officials said further decisions on the duration and scale of deployment would be taken based on ground assessments and inputs from security agencies.

West Bengal voted for 142 seats in the second phase on Wednesday, while polling for 152 seats in the first phase was held on April 23. The votes in all 294 assembly seats will be counted on May 4.

Zubeen Garg case: Court orders to attach manager's firm

GUWAHATI, DHNS: A fast-track court hearing the case of Zubbeen Garg's alleged murder on Wednesday ordered the attachment of a firm owned by his manager, Siddarth Sharma, based on the police's allegation that the money invested in it was siphoned off from the cultural icon.

The police said their probe revealed that the money was misappropriated from Garg, and that this was the prime motive of the accused to plan the murder.

Siddharth and six others have been in judicial custody since their arrest following Garg's death in Singapore in September last year.

Sharma is one of the prime accused in the alleged murder of the cultural icon. Garg died while swimming in the sea, but the police and Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma alleged that he was murdered.

During a hearing on Wednesday, Judge Sharmila Bhuyan stated that documents revealed that there was a huge mismatch between Sharma's monthly income and his bank statement, deposits in his family members' accounts, and an investment of Rs 1.1 crore he made in Mahavir Aqua, a packaged-drinking-water firm. Sharma is a partner in the firm.

Delhi HC's virtual conferencing marred by porn clips

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Delhi High Court's proceedings before the Chief Justice's court got abruptly disrupted three times as obscene pornographic content was played by a user during the virtual conferencing, prompting the filing of a complaint with the Delhi police.

A bench of Chief Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya and Justice Tejas Karia was hearing a matter when a random user logged in as "Shitjeet Sighn" shared his screen and played pornographic content on a virtual conferencing. This led to the immediate shutdown of video conferencing.

When the VC was resumed shortly thereafter, the same user again shared the screen and displayed pornographic content, leading to another shutdown. The VC was turned on again, and the participant, for the third time, shared their screen and played obscene content. A voice declared, "This is a hack from the United States. Shut the meeting right now. Never turn it on again. You have been hacked."

The HC administration filed a complaint with Delhi Police's IFSO unit over a possible security breach.

Congress rules out 'neutral role' in TN

Power-sharing call resurfaces ahead of poll results

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

Even as Tamil Nadu awaits with bated breath ahead of the April 23 Assembly election results, the Congress on Wednesday said the party cannot be a "neutral player" in the state anymore and must either be part of the government or sit in the opposition.

AICC in-charge Girish Chodankar revived the demand for power-sharing in the event of the DMK coming to power, saying the party had raised the issue during seat-sharing negotiations and was waiting for the results to take a decision.

"Definitely, we will have to take our political positioning in Tamil Nadu. We cannot be a neutral player anymore. We have to be either in the government or in the opposition. We have to decide, without which we will not be able to grow our party in Tamil Nadu," Chodankar told a news agency.

The comments assume significance in the wake of serious differences between the Congress and DMK over seat-sharing for the April 23 Assembly elections. The alliance came to the brink of collapse and was saved only due to the intervention by Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge and Sonia Gandhi.

Though the two parties contested the elections together, tensions continue, as Congress leader Rahul Gandhi did not campaign jointly with DMK President M K Stalin — despite both having referred to each other as brothers in the past. Rahul campaigned separately for Congress candidates in six locations in the state.

It is said that Rahul is upset with the DMK for not allotting enough seats to the Congress. It is also believed that Rahul and his close aides wanted to explore an alliance with actor Vijay's TVK.

"We are actually in revival mode. The party has already started strengthening its grassroots-level organisations. Everyone wants the Tamil Nadu Congress to be reorganised and strengthened so that our grassroots-level leaders can contest various elections," Chodankar added.

The party is contesting 28 seats this election.

Schism in MVA as Uddhav skips MLC elections

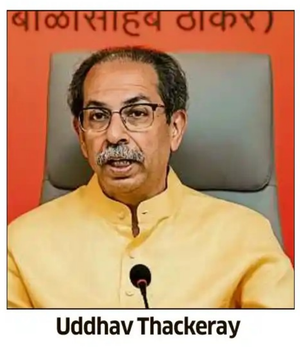
MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

Playing safe and avoiding possible embarrassment, Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray has decided to stay away from the biennial elections to the Maharashtra Legislative Council, a move that has deepened fissures within the opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA).

Instead, the Shiv Sena (UBT) has fielded veteran leader Ambadas Danve, a former Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council.

In the run-up to the polls, both the Congress and the Sharad Pawar-led NCP (SP) backed Thackeray's candidature. However, the Congress support came with the rider that it was limited to Thackeray.

The Shiv Sena (UBT)'s Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Raut announced Danve's candidature. "Thackeray has announced Danve's name. He will be the Shiv Sena (UBT) and MVA candidate," he said.



Uddhav Thackeray

While the NCP (SP) appears agreeable to Danve's name, the Congress has decided to contest the polls independently. State Congress president Harshavardhan Sapkal said the party would field its own candidate. Congress Legislature Party leader Vijay Wadettiwar said the state leadership would consult the party high command before making a final decision.

Thackeray's confidant, MLC Anil Parab, acknowledged a "communication gap" within the alliance, but expressed confidence that issues would be resolved. NCP (SP) MLA Rohit Pawar said the MVA leadership would meet and take a final call by the evening.

The polls are being held to fill nine Legislative Council vacancies. The electoral college comprises the 288-member Maharashtra Assembly, where the BJP-led Maha Yuti enjoys a comfortable majority. The nine members — including Thackeray — retiring on May 13.

With a strength of 235 MLAs, the BJP-led Maha Yuti is well placed to win eight seats — five for the BJP, two for the Shiv Sena, and one for the NCP.

In contrast, the MVA has 46 MLAs. The alliance can secure one seat, provided there is no cross-voting or defection. A candidate requires 29 first-preference votes to win.

Meanwhile, the BJP has announced five candidates for the nine Council seats. It has also fielded Pradnya Satav — the widow of Rajiv Satav, a confidant of the Gandhi family — for an MLC bypoll.

Pradnya resigned as a Congress MLC and joined the BJP in December 2024.

Rajiv was close to the Congress leadership, including Sonia Gandhi, Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, and Wayanad MP Priyanka Gandhi. He passed away in 2021 during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Subsequently, the Congress made Pradnya an MLC twice.

12 labourers killed in MP accident

DHAR (MP), PTI: Twelve labourers were killed and 20 others injured when the pick-up van carrying them overturned and collided with an SUV in Dhar district of Madhya Pradesh on Wednesday night, an official said.

The incident occurred at 8:30-9 pm. According to preliminary information, 35 labourers were returning home in a pickup van from Baggad in Dhar district when the driver lost control of the vehicle near Chikliya crossing. The vehicle overturned and collided with an SUV coming from the opposite direction.

"Twelve people died on the spot, while approximately 20 others were injured," said Dhar district's in-charge collector, Abhishek Choudhary.

The seriously injured persons were referred to Indore after initial treatment, he said.

Centre proposes changes to emission rules to push higher ethanol blends

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has proposed major changes to the country's vehicle emission norms, aiming to facilitate the adoption of flex-fuel vehicles and pure biofuel-powered vehicles across all categories, including two-wheelers, three-wheelers, passenger cars, and heavy vehicles.

As per a draft notification issued on Monday, the ministry seeks to amend the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989, to expand the use of higher ethanol blends such as E85 (85% ethanol with petrol) and E100 (nearly pure ethanol), along with B100 (100% biodiesel) and hydrogen-CNG combinations.

The ministry has invited objections and suggestions from stakeholders over a 30-day public consultation period following the gazette notification.

The proposed changes are expected to pave the way for wider adoption of cleaner alternative fuels and support India's push towards energy self-reliance and environmental sustainability.

Once finalised, the amendments will enable the certification and operation of flex-fuel and dedicated biofuel vehicles nationwide.

The proposed amendments come as India has already achieved 20% ethanol blending with petrol, a move that has helped reduce dependence on imported crude oil and lower carbon emissions.

Ethanol is produced from biomass sources, including sugarcane, corn, and rice.

Key proposals in the draft include recognising higher biofuel blends — E20, E85, E100, and B100 — for regulatory purposes. Current rules primarily cover only E10 and E20.

Raising the vehicle weight limit for light commercial vehicles from 3,000 kg to 3,500 kg to align with global standards. This change will bring more vans, pickups, and small trucks under uniform emission testing protocols.

Updating fuel definitions, including replacing "Hydrogen+CN" with "Hydrogen+CNG". Correcting technical emission metrics, changing the emission intensity unit from "Mg/kWh" to "mg/kWh" and revising the World-Harmonised Not-To-Exceed (WNTE) emission limit from "60" to "600".

Healthcare access across country improved, says NSO survey

NEW DELHI, PTI: The findings from the National Statistical Office (NSO) 80th Round Household Consumption: Health survey highlighted a significant increase in healthcare access across the country, supported by targeted government interventions, expansion of public health services, and increased insurance coverage.

Covering both rural and urban areas across the country, the survey canvassed 1,39,732 households, including 76,296 in rural areas and 63,436 in urban areas, thereby offering robust and ground-level insights into healthcare access.

The findings of the NSO 80th round are underpinned by the government's sustained increase in public investment in the health sector over the years, the health ministry said.

Enhanced budgetary allocations have enabled significant expansion of healthcare infrastructure across primary, secondary, and tertiary levels, strengthened human resources, and supported the scaling up of key initiatives, the statement said.

The median out-of-pocket medical expenditure (OOPE) per hospitalisation case in 2025 was Rs 11,285, indicating that over half of the country's hospitalisations involve relatively low expenditure.

The Government's Free Drugs Service Initiative (FDSI) and Free Diagnostics Initiative (FDI) launched in 2015 has ensured the availability of free medicines and diagnostic services to people even in the remotest areas.

The report stated that only a small number of high-cost cases push up the average.

Can non-believer from north claim right of entry to Sabarimala, asks SC

Says whether a devotee or a non-devotee is claiming the right needs to be examined

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Wednesday asked whether a non-believer from North India could claim the right of entry to the Sabarimala temple, noting that while deciding the issue regarding the right to enter temples, it had to examine whether a devotee or a non-devotee was claiming that right.

A nine-judge Constitution bench led by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant made the observations as the court heard petitions related to discrimination against women at religious places, including the Sabarimala temple in Kerala, and on the ambit and scope of the religious freedom practised by multiple faiths.

The bench also comprised Justices B V Nagarathna, M M Sundresh, Ahsanuddin Amanullah, Aravind Kumar, Augustine George Masih, Prasanna B Varale, R Mahadevan and Joymalya Bagchi.

Senior advocate Indira Jaising — appearing for two women named Bindu Ammini and Kanakadurga, who are supporting the 2018 judgement — submitted that one of the petitioners was a Scheduled Caste (SC) woman, and that stopping her from visiting the temple would be a violation of Article 17 (Abolition of Untouchability) of the Constitution.

JUSTICE BV NAGARATHNA

"In the name of reform, don't hollow out the religion... Let us not open rituals and ceremonies which have been there for centuries. It will be annihilating a religion, which we don't want to be a part of. Matters of conscience cannot be a subject matter of debate in a secular court.

A five-judge Constitution bench, by a four-to-one majority verdict in September 2018, had lifted the ban that prevented women aged 10-50 years from entering the Sabarimala Ayyappa temple, and had held that the centuries-old Hindu religious practice was illegal and unconstitutional.

"Today, we are told that non-caste Hindus can enter Sabarimala, but not women," she said. But, because of Article 17, all men could enter, with no restriction of caste, she added.

The bench responded to the submission that the woman was not prevented because she belonged to an SC, but was stopped as a woman in the 10-50 age group.

Jaising further submitted that exclusion of women from the Sabarimala temple was during the most productive and creative period of their lives.

"You cannot tell me to live half a life. Avoid living between 10 and 50, and then live before 10 and after 50. That will lead to substantial deprivation," she said.

Jaising said the right to enter a temple and worship is a fundamental right under Article 25(1) of the Constitution. She argued that after the 2018 judgment was declared, the two women went to the temple.

"These were the only two women who succeeded in climbing up and performing 'darshan'," she contended. "No one else has succeeded since then. Why? Because the state has not cooperated."

At this juncture, Justice Nagarathna said, "Who is claiming this right? Is a devotee claiming the right or a non-devotee, at whose instance? A person who has nothing to do with this temple is somewhere in North India. This temple is in South India."

HC grants bail to Dabholkar murder convict Sharad Kalaskar

MUMBAI, PTI: The Bombay High Court on Wednesday granted bail to Sharad Kalaskar, a convict in the 2013 murder case of anti-superstition activist Narendra Dabholkar, and suspended his life sentence, doubting his identity as the alleged assailant and questioning the integrity of two 'eyewitnesses'.

A bench of Justices Ajey Gadkari and Ranjitsinha Bhonsale directed Kalaskar to deposit a personal bond of Rs 50,000 and to appear before the Deccan police station in Pune, where the murder case was registered, once each month.

He had challenged his conviction by a special court in 2024 in the HC, seeking bail till the appeal is finally heard and decided.

Kalaskar, who is also facing trial for the killing of communist leader Govind Pansare, was granted bail by the HC last October.

With the HC granting him relief in the Dabholkar case, he can now walk out of jail.

Dabholkar, 67, the founder of the Maharashtra Andhashraddha Nirmoolan Samiti, was shot dead by two motorcycle-borne assailants while on a morning walk in Pune on August 20, 2013.

On Wednesday, the bench noted that Kalaskar has been in jail since his arrest in September 2018, and the likelihood of the HC taking up his appeal against conviction for hearing in the near future was remote.

CBI to probe 'scam' during Balaji's tenure

CHENNAI, DHNS: In a setback to the outgoing DMK dispensation, the Madras High Court on Wednesday ordered an investigation by the CBI into allegations of a Rs 397 crore scam in procuring distribution transformers during the tenure of V Senthil Balaji as the Minister for Electricity from 2021 to 2023.

V Senthil Balaji

The first bench of Chief Justice S A Dharmadhikari and Justice G Arul Murugan pronounced the orders on a writ petition filed by Arappor Iyakkam, an anti-corruption NGO, seeking a direction to the Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-Corruption (DVAC) to register a case.

The judges, after hearing both sides, ordered a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) investigation into the alleged scam and directed the DVAC to hand over all files connected with the case to the officer in charge of investigation to be appointed by the Central agency within two weeks.

In its petition, the NGO said it analysed 10 tenders floated between 2021 and 2023 for the procurement of 45,800 distribution transformers, valued at Rs 1,182.88 crore.

Arappor Iyakkam said that in seven of the 10 tenders, there was clear evidence of unjust enrichment to the contractors through collusive bidding and cartelisation and resultant loss to the tune of Rs 397 crore.

SC cites adequate hate-speech laws, declines intervention

Says court cannot legislate or compel legislation

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Wednesday said the existing criminal law framework adequately addressed hate speech, and that there was no "legislative vacuum" warranting its intervention.

Acting on a batch of petitions seeking action against those involved in hate speech and the creation of a mechanism to deal with such incidents, a bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta said, "The contention that the field of hate speech remains legislatively unoccupied is misconceived."

The court, however, emphasised that it would be open to the Central government and the competent legislative authorities to consider whether further legislative or policy measures were required in light of evolving societal challenges, or whether suitable amendments — as suggested in the Law Commission's 267th report, issued in March 2017 — were need.

"While we decline to issue the directions sought, we deem it appropriate to observe that issues relating to hate speech and rumour-mongering bear directly upon the preservation of fraternity, dignity and constitutional order," said Justice Nath while pronouncing the verdict.

The court said the creation of criminal offences and prescription of punishments lay squarely within the legislative domain.

SUPREME COURT

"While we decline to issue directions of the nature sought, we deem it appropriate to observe that the issues relating to hate speeches and rumour-mongering bear directly upon the preservation of fraternity, dignity and Constitutional order

Separation of powers

The bench also pointed out that the constitutional scheme, based on the doctrine of separation of powers, did not permit the judiciary to create new offences or expand criminal liability through judicial directions.

"The precedents of this court consistently affirm that while constitutional courts may interpret the law and issue directions to enforce fundamental rights, they cannot legislate or compel legislation," the bench said.

It noted that the existing framework of substantive criminal law, including provisions of the erstwhile Indian Penal Code and allied laws, adequately covered acts that promote enmity, outrage religious sentiments, or disturb public tranquillity. "The field is, therefore, not unoccupied," the court said.

It added that the statutory framework under the erstwhile Code of Criminal Procedure — now the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023 — provides a comprehensive mechanism to set criminal law in motion.

It reiterated that the police were duty-bound to register an FIR upon the disclosure of a cognisable offence, and remedies existed in cases of non-registration.

The bench dismissed the petitions filed by advocate Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay, Abdul Kuddus Laskar, Peace Party, Firoz Iqbal Khan, Kazeem Ahmad Sherwani, Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind, Qurban Ali, and others, and closed related contempt pleas filed against certain states over alleged non-compliance with earlier directions on action against hate speech.

FLYING HIGH

An Indian Navy helicopter carries out the maiden salvo launch of the Naval Anti-ship Missile-Short Range (NASM-SR) off the Odisha coast. PTI

Minor's pregnancy: SC bins AIIMS plea

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Wednesday dismissed a review plea filed by AIIMS, New Delhi, against its April 24, 2026 order directing termination of a 28-week pregnancy of a minor girl, saying that it was strange that the institute sought to defeat the constitutional rights of the adolescent.

A bench of Justices BV Nagarathna and Ujjal Bhuyan expressed serious concern over the filing of the review petition.

While rejecting the plea, the SC said, "It is strange that AIIMS is not inclined to obey the order of this court and instead is assailing it, in order to defeat the constitutional rights of the minor daughter of the appellant herein."

GIRL'S WELFARE

- Court terms review plea 'strange' and contrary to constitutional rights
- Reiterates reproductive autonomy as fundamental right
- SC stresses minor's welfare
- Says denial of relief will compel irreversible consequences

Immediately thereafter, it was learnt that a curative petition has been filed challenging the order rejecting the review plea. The petition is likely to be mentioned before a bench led by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant for urgent hearing.

Meanwhile, a contempt petition has also been filed in the matter.

On April 24, the Supreme Court had said that a pregnant woman's choice is relevant and that a woman's reproductive autonomy must be accorded the highest importance. The court allowed a 15-year-old girl to medically terminate her over seven-month pregnancy, saying that no court can force a woman, especially a minor, to carry a pregnancy against her will.

The bench said constitutional courts must weigh the circumstances of the case concerning the welfare of the pregnant woman rather than the welfare of the child to be born.

The bench said denying relief would compel the minor to endure irreversible consequences. The right to make decisions concerning one's body, particularly in matters of reproduction, is an integral facet of personal liberty and privacy under Article 21 of the Constitution.

The SC observed that it is easy to suggest that if a pregnant woman is unwilling to raise the child, she may give the child up for adoption and, therefore, must give birth.

"That cannot be a consideration, particularly in cases where the child to be born is unwanted," it said.

1992 murder case cracked after suspects, 'haunted' by victim, seek occult help

SATISH JHA
AHMEDABAD, DHNS

Haunted by "recurring hallucinations" of a person murdered in 1992, the suspects conducted occult rituals in hopes of alleviating their psychological distress. This unusual behaviour ultimately led to the case being uncovered after almost thirty years, according to police reports released on Wednesday.

The Ahmedabad Detection of Crime Branch (DCB) said that it had received information through sources that a woman had been murdered and was buried in a domestic well.

"The breakthrough came after a peculiar development within the suspects' family, who reportedly began experiencing recurring hallucinations of the deceased, whose body had been disposed of in a domestic well in their residence," said Ajit Rajian, Deputy Commissioner of Police, DCB.

Police said the victim identified as Farzana alias Shabnam, originally from Mumbai, was allegedly murdered over suspicions of an extramarital affair. The accused, Shamsuddin, is suspected of having killed his wife on suspicion that she was involved with other men.

After strangulating her, he and his family members then conspired to dispose of the body by burying it in a well at their residence, later constructing a structure over it to conceal the crime.

According to police, the family left their residence some five to six years ago after "experiencing paranormal activities in which they reportedly hallucinated the victim roaming and attacking them in the premises."

EPFO to launch Aadhaar-based portal for inactive accounts

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) is all set to launch an Aadhaar-based portal to help subscribers activate their inoperative old accounts, the Ministry of Labour and Employment said on Wednesday.

Christened E-PRAAPTI, or 'EPF Aadhaar-Based Access Portal for Tracking Inoperative Accounts', it will be a dedicated digital platform to facilitate identification, tracking, UAN linking and activation of old EPF accounts.

According to the Ministry, the portal will provide a streamlined Aadhaar-based authentication mechanism that will enable members to securely access their old EPF accounts, which may not have a UAN linked, and initiate the process of updating their member profile, followed by seamless UAN linking and activation.

In the initial phase, it said the portal will be member ID-based, ensuring a secure and efficient rollout while delivering immediate benefits to a large segment of members who possess their member IDs.

"Going forward, it is contemplated to expand the scope of E-PRAAPTI to include members who may not be able to recall or access their old member IDs. The platform is expected to reduce manual intervention, minimise documentation, and enhance transparency and efficiency," it said.

According to the Ministry, the EPFO has settled a record 8.31 crore claims in 2025–26, compared to 6.01 crore in 2024–25. It said 5.51 crore claims were advance or partial withdrawals, highlighting the ease of access to PF accounts.

THE HUTTI GOLD MINES COMPANY LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Hutti-584115, Raichur Dist, Karnataka State, Tele: 08537-275463, 276339,
e-Mail: material276339@gmail.com Website: www.huttigold.karnataka.gov.in

TENDER NOTIFICATION No. 01/26-27 Dt: 30.04.2026
(Through KPP Portal only)

Tenders are invited by "The I/c. Dy. General Manager (Materials)" for the following Tenders, detailed below:

Sl. No.	Description	EMD in Rs.
1	Supply of Toor Dall for 06 Months. **HGML/2025-26/IND0474**	65,000/-
2	Supply of spares for BBC 120F drifter. **HGML/2025-26/IND0467**	71,000/-
3	Supply of Grocery Items for 06 Months. **HGML/2026-27/IND0477**	1,93,000/-
4	Supply of Hydraulic Torque Wrench. **HGML/2026-27/IND0475**	24,000/-
5	Supply of Spirometer with all the standard accessories. **HGML/2025-26/IND0431/CALL-2**	15,000/-
6	Providing of Staff Nurse & X-ray technicians at HGML Hospital. **HGML/2026-27/SE0089.**	98,000/-

Calendar of events: **(1)** Last date for receipt of tender: **16.05.2026 at 4.00 P.M. (2)** Opening of Technical Bid on: **18.05.2026 at 10.00 A.M.** For further details interested bidders are advised to log on to website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or contact the office of undersigned during working hours. For participating in the above tender bidder needs to be registered in KPP Portal.

Sd/- I/c. Dy. General Manager (Materials)

"LEADING GOLD PRODUCER IN INDIA"

UNIVERSITY OF MYSORE
("A" Grade in 4th Cycle in NAAC Re-accreditation)
(NIRF-2023: Ranked 19th in State Public University Category, 54th in University Category and 86th in Overall Category)
Office of the Registrar (Evaluation), Viswavidyanilaya Karya Soudha,Crawford Hall, Mysore - 570005,
e-mail:registrar@uni-mysore-ac.in website:www.uni-mysore.ac.in, Ph.No.0821-24196222/361

No.:GL6/190/2023-24 Date: 27.04.2026

RE-TENDER NOTIFICATION CALL-3
(Through Karnataka Government e-procurement portal only)

The Registrar, University of Mysore, Mysuru invites tenders for Providing& supplying Medicines to Health centers University of Mysore, Mysuru under annual rate contract for one year from the date of contract as per **KTPP act 2000** through e-procurement portal of Government of Karnataka. The last date for submission of Re-Tender is **11.05.2026 up to 5:30pm**. The Tender Indent Number: **UOM/2025-26/IND0063/Call-3** details can be obtained ine-procurement **website http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**
Note:-Details of terms and conditions are uploaded in e-procurement portal. For further details please contact Telephone No:**0821-2419222/361.**

DIPR/MYSORE/SHIRDISAI/126/2026-27 **Sd/- Registrar**

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT DIVISION KOPPAL. Phone No:08539-222318.email:eepwdkpl2@gmail.com

IFT No. PWD:DK:TR:KW- 4:2026-27:321 Date: 28-04-2026.

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)

The Executive Engineer, Public works Department Division Koppal invites tenders from the eligible tenderers as per standard bid documents KW-4 on http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in Portal. Head of Account: 4059-80-051-0-30-386 / 2024-25. Two cover Tender procedure as per Rule 28 of the KTPP Act shall be followed. For more information the contractor can contact the under signed during office hours on Phone No. 08539 – 222318 and all informations regarding tenders can be had from website http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. 01 Work (Work Indent No:17559) Last Date & Time for receipt of tenders **14-05-2026** Time 12.00, Date and Time for opening of Technical Bid **15-05-2026** Time 12.30, Date and Time for opening of Financial Bid **19-05-2026** Time 13.00. Estimate Amount **Rs.860.00** Lakhs respectively. The tender documents can be downloaded from the above website address, EMD, Date & Time for Pre-bid meeting, Tender Queries/Clarification & Other information as mentioned in KPPP Portal. Any changes either in tender date or any other condition tenderers can view in KPPP portal.

DIPR/Koppal/56/KSMCA/2026-27 **Sd/- EE, PWD Division, Koppal**

KODAGU INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, MADIKERI
(Government of Karnataka - Autonomous Institution)
Phone: 08272 298220 Website: www.kimskodagu.karnataka.gov.in
Ref:No.DME/2026-27/IND2291 Date: 28.04.2026

SHORT TERM RE-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Under Signed invites e-tender notification in two bid system from eligible tenderers through e-procurement portal **https: kppp.karanataka.gov.in GOK,** for the **SUPPLY OF EQUIPMENTS TO, DEPARTMENT OF ANESTHESIOLOGY AND OTS; KODAGU INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES TEACHING HOSPITAL, MADIKERI.** last date for upload is 13-05-2026 for more information contact e-procurement portal or office of the undersigned.

Director & Dean, KoIMS, Madikeri

ನಗರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ ಹೊಸಪೇಟೆ.
No:7735/54683/CMC/HPT//Tender/2025-26 Dated: 24.04.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION (IFT) E-PROCUREMENT

2026-27th Municipal Fund And 2018-19 SFC Special Grant Tenders are invited for the work mentioned below as per KTPP act 2000 in two cover system are invited from the Contractors/Firms registered in KPWD as mentioned below. in e-procurement the contractors / firms will have to upload all information, documents and rates etc., www.eproc.karnataka.govt.in. **02.Indent No:**DMA/2026-27/SE7735 Work Details: Operation and Maintenance of water Supply Distribution System of CMC Hosapete 2026-27. **Last Date:**11-05-2026. **Estimated Cost (in Lakhs):** 56.30
04.Indent No:DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT54683/CALL-2 **Work Details:** Development of BT Road at AnantashayanaGudi Ward No 07 at Hosapete City. **LastDate:** 02-05-2026. **Estimated Cost (in Lakhs):** 67.50
any other information required can be obtained from the office of the CMC Hosapete during the working hours

Sd/- AssistantExecutive Engineer, CMC Hosapete **Sd/- Municipal Commissioner CMC Hosapete.**
DIPR/Vijayanagar/2026-27/KSMCA/RO No/53

Recent violence, killings disrupt peace process, says Manipur CM

Protest rallies held against gunfight in Kuki villages, 'ex-CM's audio tape'

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS

Amid fresh tension in the Valley and in Naga-dominated Ukhrul district, Manipur Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh on Wednesday stated that recent deaths — including the killing of two children at Tronglaobi village in the Bishnupur district on April 7 — had derailed the fresh peace process in the strife-torn state.

Inaugurating several projects in the Langthabal Assembly constituency in Imphal West, Singh said since assuming charge as the CM in February, he had engaged with MLAs, officials, and people from different communities to work together to foster peace.

"I have been visiting the hill and Valley areas — including the Jiribam, Senapati, Kangpokpi, and Ukhrul districts — to address people's grievances. People across communities have expressed a strong desire for the restoration of peace," he said.

"However, the unfortunate incidents have derailed the peace process. The culprits involved in such incidents will be identified soon," said the CM.

The state has witnessed 11 deaths — including five in the Meitei-dominated Bishnupur district — since April 7.

Meanwhile, thousands of people on Wednesday took out multiple rallies in Kuki-majority areas of Manipur's four districts to protest the recent gunfight at a village in Ukhrul.

The rallies were also held demanding swift judicial action to find out the truth behind the audio tape linked to former chief minister N Biren Singh, which surfaced during the height of ethnic violence in 2024.

The protests were organised by Kuki Women Organisation for Human Rights (KWOHR) and the Kuki Women Union (KWU) in Churachandpur, Kangpokpi, Chandel and Tengnoupal districts.

Four Nagas and a Kuki have been killed in the Naga-dominated Ukhrul district, triggering protests in the Valley as well as in the Naga-dominated districts.

COCOMI meet

The CM's statement came on the day the Coordination Committee on Manipur Unity (COCOMI) — an influential forum of civil society organisations, mainly from the Valley — decided to hold a public convention in Imphal on May 3 to mark the completion of three years of Meitei-Kuki conflict.

The organisation said a decision about participation in talks with the government would be made at the convention. The state government earlier invited the COCOMI for talks to end the ongoing agitation in the Valley.

(With PTI inputs)

Maha cabinet approves AI policy

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

The Maharashtra government on Wednesday approved the state's Artificial Intelligence Policy, marking a decisive leap into the future of technology.

As rapid technological and AI-driven advancements are reshaping industries and economies, Maharashtra is poised to lead from the front by embracing innovation and harnessing the transformative power of AI.

The policy was approved at the weekly Cabinet meeting presided over by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis.

Notably, Maharashtra will become the first state in the country to create a dedicated framework for Ethical AI.

The primary objective of this policy is to generate large-scale employment, with a target of creating approximately 1.5 lakh AI-based jobs, officials said.

Additionally, around 2 lakh youth will be trained in AI, helping build a future-ready skilled workforce. The policy also envisages setting up 6 Centres of Excellence for Artificial Intelligence across the state.

The Applied AI Accelerator initiative will be promoted to enhance AI adoption in the manufacturing sector.

To support implementation, robust computing infrastructure will be developed, including the provisioning of 2,000 GPUs in the state.

Financial aid will be provided to 5,000 MSMEs to improve productivity. A Rs 500 crore venture capital fund will be established, with Rs 250 crore contributed by the state.

Dozens of Huskies abandoned in Hyd amid scorching heat

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

In a disturbing case of alleged organised animal cruelty, dozens of Siberian Huskies — an exotic breed built for Arctic temperatures — were seen abandoned on the outskirts of Hyderabad earlier this month, with no food, water, or shelter.

The issue came to light on Wednesday, when a group of animal welfare volunteers rescued these canines and shifted them to shelter homes.

The dogs were offloaded from a truck at night, reportedly on April 20 or 21, along the Shankarpally-Patancheru Road. Eyewitnesses say as many as 40 Huskies — one to four years of age — were seen being unloaded. Since then, many scattered into the surrounding scrubland; others wandered into nearby residential areas.

Some of the abandoned dogs in Hyderabad.

Since then, temperatures in Telangana have hovered above 40° C, conditions that are potentially fatal for this breed.

The crisis came to light after a young attendant at a local petrol pump noticed a Husky approaching him, visibly thirsty. Word spread to animal rights groups, and volunteers from the Aasra Foundation and Swan NGO quickly went into action.

What they found was grim: One dog had already died, its body left in the dirt. Several others were in critical condition, suffering from severe dehydration and acute heat stress.

"This wasn't a mistake. It was an organised disposal," said Aasra Foundation founder Gauri Vandana.

"Given the sheer number of purebred dogs, we strongly suspect a local breeder or a private facility used these animals for illegal testing or mass breeding. Once they were no longer useful, they were abandoned," she told *DH*.

92-year-old UP lawmaker reaches alma mater for high school certificate after 76 yrs

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

"School days may end, but the memories last forever." The adage proved to be true when 92-year-old Uttar Pradesh lawmaker Alambadi Azmi reached his school to take his high school certificate after 76 years.

Azmi, the Samajwadi Party MLA from the Nizamabad seat in the Azamgarh district, had passed the high school (Class 10) examination from Islamia Inter College at Buxipur in Gorakhpur in 1950.

He was filled with nostalgic memories when he saw the college building and visited the old classrooms and the library on Tuesday.

The college had organised a special event to honour Azmi, in which he was given the certificate. The nonagenarian leader recalled the strict discipline in his school back then, as well as the helpful attitude of the teachers. He also narrated tales from his days at the college.

A college functionary said that Azmi had expressed his desire to visit the college to take his high school certificate, which the institution facilitated. He was also felicitated with a lifetime achievement award by the college.

Azmi is known for his simplicity and was often seen riding a cycle or a scooter to the UP Assembly.

He joined politics after retiring from state government service and has represented the Nizamabad Assembly seat five times since 1993.

MISCELLANY

◆COMICS◆

Blondie

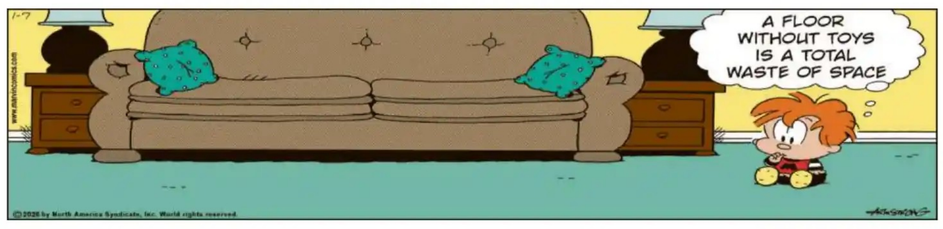
SO, WHAT MAKES YOU FEEL YOU'D BE A GOOD FIT HERE AT J.C. DITHERS AND COMPANY?
WELL, I FIGURE IF YOU CAN FIT HERE, SURELY I CAN TOO, RIGHT?
SO, WAS THE NEW APPLICANT A GOOD FIT?
ACTUALLY, I THINK HE'D BE A PERFECT FIT

Hagar The Horrible

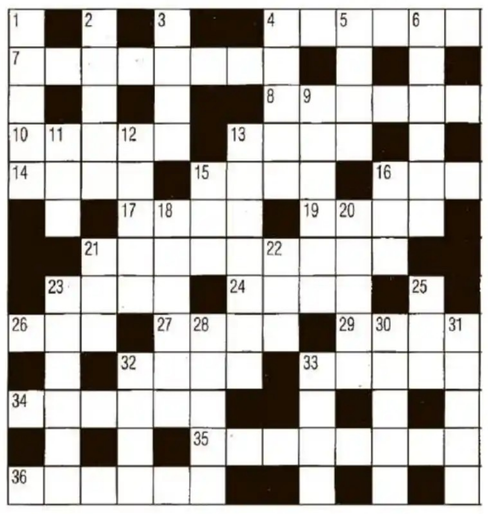
Beetle Bailey

Peanuts

Marvin



CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12406



CRYPTIC

ACROSS
4 My rise cannot possibly bring happiness (6)
7 Where the boatman gets badly out of line (8)
8 Charles keeps in fetters! (6)
10 Points out some hate is simmering (5)
13 Posh emporium? (4)
14 Dance turn Hal's upset about (4)
15 Bit of a cat (4)
16 A patient task (3)
17 One in the past a villain (4)
19 I'm half a day with a Muslim leader (4)
21 It comes later to one in search of illumination (9)
23 Obscurity leads to half the errors (4)
24 In Ireland, a girl gets love (4)
26 Being on edge, he starts mumbling (3)
27 Nominally a unit (4)
29 Marine creature bringing credit to a seaman (4)
32 Run out of escudos (4)
33 Like Christmas, one imagines (5)
34 Plenty of hard biscuit aboard ship! (6)
35 Give a girl a servile status (8)
36 A drink, but you can snap it like a biscuit! (6)

DOWN
1 Break into a jumbled mass on the top of the heap (5)
2 Nurse Lange, possibly? (5)
3 A name in patriotism (4)
4 Like the tough guy who almost came up to the house (5)
5 A game of quick decision (4)
6 Firing at it, you'll never hit it (6)
9 In a pious way, I'm reformed by its moralising (6)
11 The little old king's sign of impatience (3)
12 Did they stray from the orphanage? (5)
13 Held forth thunderously (7)
15 Get into life's later stages (3)
16 Talk? Yes- to the point! (3)
18 Engaged in getting riding equipment for the assault (6)
20 Loiter with a low companion (5)
21 Mean to go first class to Minehead (3)
22 Is she up from the village out West? (3)
23 He advises men on bad rot (6)
25 Of Irish butter? (3)
28 Like a presidential beard, possibly? (5)
30 Is a hard hearted one a competitive newcomer? (5)
31 Like a glass eye? (5)
32 Show an interest in the bar code? (4)
33 Delivery extra far out (4)

EASY

ACROSS
4 Spin a coin (4,2)
7 Insinuation (8)
8 Minor earthquake (6)
10 Test or experiment (5)
13 Change direction (4)
14 Vend (4)
15 Short-term worker (4)
16 Use a spade (3)
17 Religious image (4)
19 Continent (4)
21 Native Australian (9)
23 Plant (4)
24 Certain (4)
26 Legendary bird (3)
27 Pimple (4)
29 Unfortunately (4)
32 Fronded plant (4)
33 Art (5)
34 Corsair (6)
35 Proof (8)
36 Period of instruction (6)

DOWN
1 Presents (5)
2 Escargot (5)
3 Give out playing cards (4)
4 Tribal emblem (5)
5 Prophet (4)
6 Ideal society (6)
9 Mend (6)
11 Colour (3)
12 Defence plea (5)
13 Deer meat (7)
15 Hill (3)
16 Cease living (3)
18 Pamper (6)
20 Move furtively (5)
21 Curve (3)
22 Intestine (3)
23 Bluish-black element (6)
25 Girl's name (3)
28 Clean feathers (5)
30 Big cats (5)
31 Shuteye (5)
32 Football supporters (4)
33 Flank (4)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12405

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 1, Tricks 7, Elephant 8, Tube 10, Pa-uses 11, Innate 14, Rot 16, Da-T-ed 17, D-one 19, A-RR-ay 21, A-dieu 22, Wrong 23, Guys 26, Sodom 28, Sin 29, Opener 30, Ra-Vi-ne 31, Ex-it 32, Sprain- ed 33, Signor.
DOWN: 1, Trip-od 2, Crusoe 3, Sees 4, Span-Da-u 5, Marat 6, Steed 8, Turn 9, Bet 12, Nay 13, Testy 15, Brine 18, On top 19, A-do 20, Reg. 21, Ar-men-ia 22, W-on 23, Gi-vin-g 24, Un-it 25, Skewer 26, So-USA 27, Deary 28, Sax(e) 30, Reds.

EASY
ACROSS: 1, Stress 7, Pedigree 8, Boor 10, Deadly 11, Aflame 14, Rue 16, Aides 17, Lass 19, Tepid 21, Molar 22, Demon 23, Grey 26, Minim 28, Lea 29, Ironed 30, Canine 31, Avid 32, Abattoir 33, Talons.
DOWN: 1, Sandal 2, Exodus 3, Spry 4, Bid fair 5, Tread 6, Fetes 8, Bars 9, Ole 12, Lid 13, Melee 15, Below 18, Astir 19, Tom 20, Pan 21, Memento 22, Din 23, Genial 24, Raid 25, Yields 26, Milan 27, Nomad 28, Lav 30, Cart.

◆SU-DO-KU-6893◆

		8		3		6	7	
		7					9	
	9		1					
3			5		4			7
			6		3			
9			8		2			5
					6		4	
	4					3		
	1	2		4		8		

hard

SOLUTION TO 6892

6	3	7	4	2	8	5	1	9
4	5	9	7	6	1	2	8	3
1	8	2	3	9	5	4	6	7
8	7	4	9	5	6	3	2	1
5	6	3	1	7	2	9	4	8
2	9	1	8	3	4	7	5	6
7	1	8	2	4	3	6	9	5
9	4	6	5	1	7	8	3	2
3	2	5	6	8	9	1	7	4

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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							RACK 1
E1	A1	E1	E1	F4	C3	F4	
							RACK 2
C3	R1	N1	H4	N1	I1	U1	Triple Word Score
							RACK 3
U1	E1	U1	S1	B3	T1	S1	4th Letter Triple
							RACK 4
D2	J8	T1	A1	S1	U1	S1	

PAR SCORE 80-90
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YEATERDAY'S SOLUTION

A1	C3	T1	I1	N1	G2	
G2	R1	A1	D2	A1	T1	E1
A1	T1	A1	V4	I1	S1	M3
S1	U1	R1	F4	E1	I1	T1

PAR SCORE 150-160

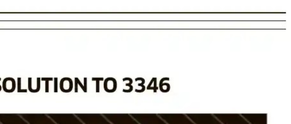
RACK 1 = 9
RACK 2 = 68
RACK 3 = 86
RACK 4 = 64
JUDD'S TOTAL 227

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

MIKPS
GTLHI
ONCNAN
NIDUWN


Do you need help getting these out? I don't have any more room for orders.
Sorry, I can't carry them all with this cast.
THE SERVERS COULDN'T GET THE PANCAKES OUT FAST ENOUGH, AND ORDERS WERE ---

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: VERGE HILLY SPRAWL IMPOSE
Answer: He was "The King," but some parents got all shook up by the hip thrusts of — "PELVIS" PRESLEY

HITORI-3347

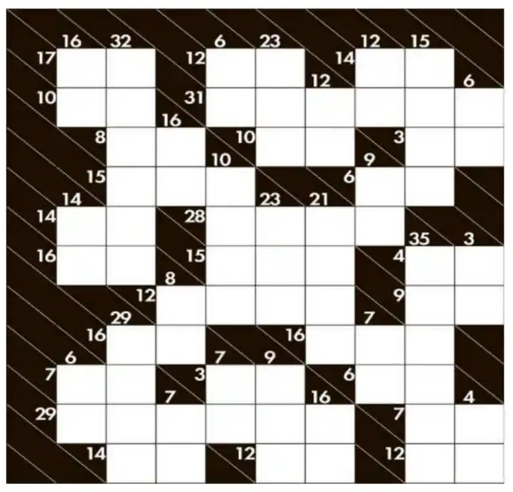
2	7	3	6	8	5	1	4
7	7	2	8	3	2	4	3
6	4	6	3	8	2	1	8
6	6	5	8	7	4	8	1
5	8	4	1	8	7	8	6
3	2	6	8	1	8	7	8
4	8	2	4	6	8	3	2
8	3	7	5	4	1	2	8

SOLUTION TO 3346

7	3	2	4	■	6	■	8
■	7	■	6	4	8	2	5
3	4	1	8	■	7	■	6
6	■	4	1	5	■	3	■
■	5	7	2	■	3	6	1
4	6	■	3	8	2	5	■
■	1	6	■	3	■	4	2
8	2	■	7	1	5	■	4

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

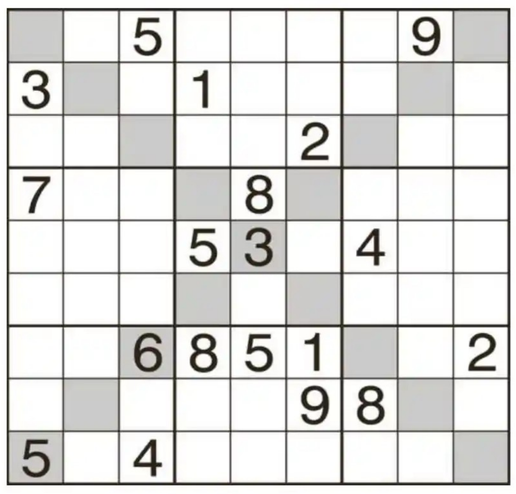
KAKURO- 3347



SOLUTION TO 3346

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3901



SOLUTION TO 3900

7	9	4	2	6	3	8	5	1
8	5	6	1	4	9	7	3	2
3	2	1	8	5	7	6	4	9
6	7	9	4	3	5	1	2	8
4	8	2	6	9	1	3	7	5
5	1	3	7	2	8	4	9	6
9	3	8	5	7	6	2	1	4
1	4	5	3	8	2	9	6	7
2	6	7	9	1	4	5	8	3

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

MATTER OF LIFE

US top court sides with anti-abortion centre raising 1st Amendment fears

Ruling allows challenge to New Jersey probe over donor information

WASHINGTON, AP/PTI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday sided with a faith-based pregnancy centre that raised First Amendment concerns about an investigation into whether it misled people to discourage abortions.

The high court's unanimous ruling is a procedural victory for First Choice Women's Resource Centres, which is challenging a New Jersey investigation into its practices.

The conservative-majority court has given abortion opponents high-profile wins in recent years, most notably the watershed case that overturned the nationwide right to abortion in 2022. First Choice, however, had also drawn support from the American Civil Liberties Union, which supports abortion rights but backed the group's First Amendment concerns.

The Supreme Court's decision allows First Choice to sue over the subpoena in federal court.

Facilities often known as "crisis pregnancy centres" have been on the rise in the United States as Republican-controlled states enforce bans or restrictions on abortion, and some channel tax dollars to the centres, which provide prenatal care and encourage women to carry pregnancies to term.

As Democratic-leaning states seek to protect abortion access, several have investigated whether anti-abortion centres mislead women, including by implying they offer abortions.

In New Jersey, then-Democratic Attorney General Matthew Platkin issued a subpoena seeking donor lists and other information.

First Choice pushed back, arguing the investigation was baseless and that the demand for donor lists threatened its First Amendment rights to free speech and association.

It attempted to challenge the subpoena in federal court, but a judge found the case was not yet sufficiently advanced. An appeals court agreed.

First Choice then turned to the Supreme Court.

It argued that access to federal courts is important in cases where government investigators are accused of misusing state power, and the ACLU agreed that subpoenas seeking donor information can deter supporters.

The state argued that the information would only be used to ask donors whether they had been misled about First Choice's services, and that the subpoena could not have threatened its First Amendment rights because the group had not yet been required to turn over any information.

A court order is required to enforce the subpoena, and the judge overseeing the underlying case has so far only directed the two sides to negotiate.

New Jersey also argued that allowing First Choice to sue could usher in a glut of lawsuits from the thousands of businesses that receive similar subpoenas.

The Trump administration weighed in to support First Choice. The Justice Department argued that any impact would be relatively limited, as the decision would apply only to groups with similar First Amendment claims.

Hegseth defends $1.5tn war budget

Iran war costs estimated at $25 billion so far: Pentagon

WASHINGTON, AP/PTI

US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth told lawmakers that the Pentagon's proposed $1.5tn (£1.1trn) budget reflects the "urgency of the moment" amid the ongoing Iran war, as he faced intense questioning in his first congressional appearance since the conflict began in February.

Describing the proposal as a "historic" and "war-fighting" budget, Hegseth told the House Armed Services Committee it would "maintain the world's most powerful and capable military". He also accused congressional Democrats of being "the biggest adversary we face", prompting sharp pushback from opposition lawmakers.

The Pentagon's chief financial officer said the war has so far cost the US about $25bn, with munitions accounting for the bulk of the expenditure. Acting finance official Jules Hurst III said a supplemental funding request would be sent to Congress. Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Gen Dan Caine told the panel that the military requires "timely, predictable and sustained investment".

Democratic lawmakers questioned the strategy and objectives of the war. Representative Adam Smith called it "absurd" to claim the approach was rooted in realism, asking what the administration's end goals were and warning that the cost was "very, very high". Representative Joe Courtney also challenged the deployment, noting that the administration's own defence strategy had described Iran as weakened.

In a tense exchange, Hegseth maintained that Iran's nuclear facilities had been "obliterated" in a 2025 US attack but argued Tehran still posed a threat due to its missile capabilities and continued ambitions. Smith countered that the war had left the US "at exactly the same place we were before".

The hearing came as diplomatic efforts to end the conflict appeared stalled. UN nuclear watchdog chief Rafael Grossi said any agreement would require significant political will, with disagreements persisting over sequencing steps on Iran's nuclear programme and regional activities. He added that discussions had been held with Russia and others on removing Iran's enriched uranium from the country.

US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth testifies before a House Armed Services Committee in Washington DC on Wednesday. REUTERS

US President Donald Trump and Britain's King Charles III raise a toast beside the original bell from the H M S Trump, a World War II-era submarine and inscribed "Trump 1944", a gift from King Charles III, during a State Dinner at the White House in Washington DC on Tuesday. AFP

Trump claims King Charles 'agrees' Iran shouldn't have nuclear weapon

Defying protocol, US prez relays details of private conversation

LONDON, AP/PTI

In the world of diplomatic faux pas, it could have been a lot worse. At Tuesday's state dinner honouring King Charles III and Queen Camilla, US President Donald Trump said that during a private meeting earlier in the day the British monarch had agreed with him that Iran should never be allowed to have nuclear weapons.

"We're doing a little Middle East work right now... and we're doing very well," Trump told the audience. "We have militarily defeated that particular opponent, and we're never going to let that opponent ever — Charles agrees with me, even more than I do — we're never going to let that opponent have a nuclear weapon."

While many Britons would agree with the president's sentiment, the comment triggered mild consternation among pundits in the UK. By convention, people are not supposed to relay private conversations with the monarch. That is partly because the king must remain above the political fray, but also because the sovereign cannot wade into a public debate and correct the record if he is misquoted.

"Generally, as a matter of protocol, I think I would expect discussions between heads of state to be kept behind the scenes, in closed meetings," said Craig Prescott, an expert on constitutional law and the monarchy at Royal Holloway, University of London. "And this was something that the UK government wanted to avoid."

There had been a fair amount of jitters before the king's trip to the United States, which comes amid Trump's very public frustration with UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer over his failure to support US actions in the Iran war.

Like all royal visits, this is a carefully choreographed diplomatic event carried out at the request of the UK government, which hopes that warm relations between the king and Trump — who appears to admire all things royal — can help repair the rift.

UK expels Russian diplomat in tit-for-tat move

LONDON, AP/PTI: The UK on Wednesday expelled a Russian diplomat in retaliation for Moscow's recent expulsion of a British official and the smear campaign that followed.

Britain's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office said it summoned the Russian ambassador to its offices in London to inform him of the "reciprocal action". The tit-for-tat moves reflect spiralling tensions between Moscow and the West.

"This behaviour is wholly unacceptable, and we will not tolerate harassment or intimidation of our diplomatic staff," the Foreign Office said in a statement.

The move came after Russia last month expelled a British diplomat over spying allegations that the UK rejected as "complete nonsense". Russia's top domestic security and counterintelligence agency, the Federal Security Service, known as the FSB, said the British diplomat had sought to gather "sensitive information" about the Russian economy in "unofficial meetings" with Russian experts. The diplomat was ordered to leave Russia within two weeks.

Russia and NATO member states have carried out multiple rounds of mutual expulsions of diplomats since the Kremlin launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022.

Sri Lanka mass grave excavation to resume

COLOMBO, PTI: A Sri Lankan court has ordered the recommencement of excavation work on a mass grave in Chemmani, on the outskirts of Jaffna, which first came into focus during the LTTE conflict in the 1990s, seven months after it was halted.

The excavation work in Chemmani in the Northern Province came to a halt in September last due to the pending new allocation of funds by the Ministry of Justice. The Jaffna magistrate's court was told on Tuesday that LKR 2.1 million allocation has been made available so that work can be resumed.

China to grant zero-tariff treatment to African countries with diplomatic ties

BEIJING, PTI

China will expand zero-tariff treatment to all African countries that have diplomatic ties with Beijing, starting May 1, an official announcement said.

The announcement specified that for products under tariff quotas, only the in-quota tariff rate will be reduced to zero, while the out-of-quota tariff rate will remain unchanged.

From May 1, 2026, to April 30, 2028, China will grant zero-tariff treatment, in the form of a preferential tariff rate, to 20 African countries that have established diplomatic ties with China and are not classified as least developed countries, the Customs Tariff Commission of the State Council, China's central cabinet, said.

During the two-year implementation period, China will continue to promote the negotiation and signing of the China-Africa Economic Partnership for Shared Development agreement with relevant African countries, it said.

China's zero-tariff policy applies to 53 African countries, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian told a media briefing here.

"China will continue to negotiate and sign economic partnership agreements for common development with relevant African countries," Lin said. "At the same time, it will upgrade the green channel for the export of agricultural products from Africa to China and steadily enhance trade facilitation between China and Africa," he said.

China's latest move to apply zero-tariff treatment to an additional 20 African nations follows its decision to grant zero-tariff treatment on 100 per cent of tariff lines since December 1, 2024, for 33 least developed African countries with which it maintains diplomatic relations.

Families sue OpenAI over Canada mass shooting

REUTERS: Family members of victims of one of Canada's deadliest mass shootings sued OpenAI and CEO Sam Altman in US court, alleging the company knew 8 months before the attack that the shooter was planning it on ChatGPT but did not alert police.

Seven lawsuits, filed in federal court in San Francisco, accuse OpenAI of failing to notify authorities because doing so could have exposed the volume of violence-related conversations on ChatGPT and potentially jeopardised the company's path to a nearly $1 trillion IPO. The February shooting in Tumbler Ridge killed nine people.

Two Jewish men stabbed in London terror attack

LONDON, AFP

Two Jewish men were stabbed on Wednesday in north London, an attack police declared a "terrorist incident" and which follows a series of arson attacks targeting Jewish sites.

King Charles III, Prime Minister Keir Starmer and London Mayor Sadiq Khan led the condemnation of the "appalling" assaults in Golders Green, which is home to a large Jewish population.

Police said a 45-year-old man had been arrested after also attempting to stab officers. The two victims — aged 76 and 34 — were in a stable condition in hospital.

Speaking from the scene and facing heckles from some in the local community, Metropolitan Police Commissioner Mark Rowley said the suspect has "a history of serious violence and mental health issues".

CCTV footage of a Jewish man getting stabbed by an attacker in Golders Green area of London. REUTERS

"Let me be clear: this is an attack on one community, and an attack on one community is an attack on all London's communities," Rowley added.

Starmer echoed the sentiment, saying on X that "attacks on our Jewish community are attacks on Britain" while vowing that "those responsible will be brought to justice".

The UK leader will convene an emergency meeting of senior ministers and officials later on Wednesday, according to the area's MP, Sarah Sackman.

King Charles III, who is on a state visit to the United States, said he was "deeply concerned" in a statement issued by Buckingham Palace.

US labour official backs federal rule to hike H-1B wages

WASHINGTON, PTI: The top labour official of North Carolina has supported a federal proposal to increase the minimum wages employers will have to offer to hire foreign workers under H-1B, H-1B1 and E-3 visa programmes.

North Carolina Labour Commissioner Luke Farley said American workers were being hurt by foreign visa programmes that depress wages.

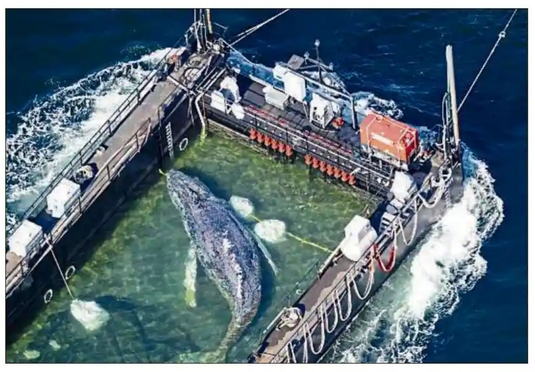
"H-1B visas take jobs from American and North Carolina workers. Last week, I submitted official comments in support of a new rule proposed by the Trump Administration to make sure H-1B visa holders don't undercut wages for American workers," Farley said in a statement.

In a letter to Brian Pasternak, US Department of Labour, Farley pointed to what he described as longstanding issues within the current system, including loopholes that allow some employers to fill jobs at wage levels below market rates - contributing to downward pressure on wages and fewer opportunities for North Carolina and American workers.

The proposed rule aims to ensure wages more accurately reflect market conditions across visa programmes.

On March 26, the US Department of Labour proposed new rules to raise wages for foreign workers under H-1B and other visa programmes. The Department of Labour is seeking public comments on the issue till May 25.

WORLD AT A GLANCE



Aerial photo taken on Wednesday shows a rescued humpback whale weeks after it beached on a sandbank near the city of Lübeck. German rescuers hauled the whale into a special boat in the latest attempt to free the cetacean. AFP

Ex-FBI director Comey appears in court over Trump threat charge

▸ Former FBI director James Comey surrendered to authorities in Virginia on Wednesday, after being charged with threatening President Donald Trump's life with a social media post, AFP reports from Washington.

Comey, an outspoken critic of the US president who faced other federal charges that were subsequently thrown out, posted a photo to Instagram in May 2025 of seashells arranged in the shape of the numbers 86 and 47 on a beach in North Carolina. Trump said this gesture was a coded threat. CNN reported that Comey appeared for a hearing in Alexandria, Virginia, where he did not enter a plea and was later allowed to leave. The new indictment against Comey was announced Tuesday, with Acting US Attorney General Todd Blanche saying that because of the seashell post Comey faced one count of "willfully making a threat to take the life of and to inflict bodily harm upon the president of the United States" and another of making an interstate threat. Each charge carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison. Comey served as FBI director from 2013 to 2017.

Lavrov to visit India in May

▸ Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov will travel to India next month to attend the BRICS foreign ministers' meeting in New Delhi, PTI reports from Moscow.

During his visit on May 14–15, Lavrov will also hold a bilateral meeting with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said during a briefing. "On May 14–15, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov will attend a full-format meeting of BRICS foreign ministers in New Delhi," Zakharova said. The meeting, chaired by India, will provide a platform for discussions on international issues and prospects for strengthening global governance.

Protesters hold branches and sticks during a march against undocumented migrants in Johannesburg, South Africa, on Wednesday. AFP

Artemis II moonship returns

▸ The spacecraft that flew four astronauts around the moon is back where its record-breaking journey began, AP/PTI reports from Cape Canaveral.

Nasa's Artemis II capsule returned to Florida's Kennedy Space Center on Tuesday, almost a month after blasting off on humanity's first lunar trip in more than a half-century. Following its splashdown in the Pacific on April 10, the Orion capsule was trucked from San Diego to Cape Canaveral. Engineers will examine the capsule's heat shield in more detail along with everything else in preparation for next year's Artemis III docking demo in orbit around Earth. The capsule's electronic boxes will be removed and recycled, along with research equipment.

Wickremesinghe to face charges

▸ Sri Lanka's former president Ranil Wickremesinghe and his secretary Saman Ekanayake will face indictments for the alleged misappropriation of state funds worth 16.6 million Lankan rupees (USD 52,000), a local court was told on Wednesday, PTI reports from Colombo.

They are accused of using state funds for Wickremesinghe's travel to a British university in 2023 for his wife's graduation. Wickremesinghe, who served as president from 2022 to 2024, argued that it was an official invitation from the University of Wolverhampton, and that he attended it while in transit during his return to Sri Lanka following official engagements in other countries.

A humanoid robot pushes a cargo container during a demonstration inside Japan Airlines' aircraft hangar in Tokyo. The airline will begin testing robots from May for cargo loading and unloading amid a chronic labour shortage. REUTERS

Biz Bytes

Vedanta Q4 profit zooms to Rs 9,352 cr

NEW DELHI, PTI: Mining conglomerate Vedanta Ltd on Wednesday reported an 89% rise in its consolidated profit after tax at Rs 9,352 crore in the quarter ended March 2026, citing higher sales volume amid rising global metal prices as well as the weakening rupee's exchange rate.

In the year-ago period, the Anil Agarwal-led company posted a consolidated PAT (profit after tax) of Rs 4,961 crore.

The revenue from operations during the latest fourth quarter also rose by 29% to Rs 51,524 crore, from Rs 39,789 crore a year ago.

Emmvee Q4 net jumps 89%

NEW DELHI, PTI: Emmvee Photovoltaic Power on Wednesday logged 89% growth in its net profit to Rs 392.4 crore during the quarter ended March 2026, supported by higher revenues.

During January-March, revenues from operations rose 62% YoY to Rs 1,738.8 crore, the company stated. For the entire FY26, PAT stood at Rs 1,081.6 crore, up 193%. "We have focused on strengthening our technology capabilities and integration strategy to ensure long-term competitiveness," CMD DV Manjunatha Donthi.

Lexus India enhances vehicle warranty

BENGALURU, DHNS: Lexus India on Wednesday announced an enhancement to its vehicle warranty, to 8 years/200,000 km for all new vehicles sold from April 1, 2026.

"With this update, Lexus is the first luxury auto manufacturer in India to offer such coverage, further reinforcing the strength and prestige of the Lexus brand," the Japanese carmaker said in a statement.

"Extending our vehicle warranty is a direct reflection of the confidence we have in every vehicle we bring to India," said Hikaru Ikeuchi, President of Lexus India.

Cleartrip enters train bookings space

BENGALURU, DHNS: Online travel platform Cleartrip on Wednesday launched train ticket bookings in partnership with Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC). Leveraging IRCTC's strong infrastructure, this integration offers both reliability at scale and a simplified, user-friendly experience. The Flipkart company will allow users to search for, book, and manage their train journeys effortlessly within the app, marking a significant step towards becoming a unified, multi-modal travel platform.

ixigo launches native apps on ChatGPT

BENGALURU, DHNS: Travel platform ixigo on Wednesday announced the launch of native apps for its three platforms – ixigo flight & hotel, AbhiBus, and ConfirmTkt – inside ChatGPT, bringing end-to-end travel planning directly into a conversational AI interface. Now, users can search and compare travel options across flights, buses, trains, and hotels in real time within ChatGPT and then book via ixigo Group apps through conversational prompts.

OMCs incurring loss of Rs 18/L on diesel, Rs 14 on petrol: ICRA

LPG under-recoveries may widen to Rs 80k cr in FY27

OMCs under pressure

Rising crude prices and controlled fuel rates strain profitability across key sectors

- Price of Indian crude basket surges from **$63/barrel** in Jan to $113 in Mar, and to $116 in Apr
- Fertiliser subsidy burden estimated to jump to **Rs 2.05-2.25L cr** in 2026-27
- Fuel prices remain unchanged despite sharp rise in crude oil
- Higher energy costs to affect downstream sectors in current fiscal
- **LPG losses may reach Rs 80,000 cr** if prices remain unchanged

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Oil marketing companies (OMCs) like Indian Oil and Bharat Petroleum are selling diesel at a loss of Rs 18 per litre and petrol at Rs 14 a litre, despite the recent reduction in excise duty, rating agency ICRA said on Wednesday.

Pump prices of normal petrol and diesel have remained stable, despite the sharp increase in crude oil prices due to the West Asia conflict in the last two months.

"The stable pump prices for auto fuels, amid elevated crude oil prices, are impacting the profitability of the OMCs," said Prashant Vasisht, Senior Vice-President and Co-Group Head, ICRA.

As per Petroleum Ministry data, price of Indian crude basket surged from an average $63 per barrel in January to $113 per barrel in March, and to $116 per barrel in April.

Following the outbreak of the US-Israel-Iran conflict on February 28, the prices of cooking gas, premium petrol and diesel for industrial use were increased.

Despite the sharp increase in cooking gas price, according to ICRA, the government and OMCs are likely to incur a loss of Rs 80,000 crore on LPG supply in the current financial year, if the prices are not hiked further.

Fertiliser subsidy burden is estimated to jump to Rs 2.05-2.25 lakh crore in 2026-27, sharply higher than the budgeted Rs 1.71 lakh crore.

The fertiliser sector faces significant cost pressures driven by a rise in sulphur and ammonia prices, which in turn feed into other raw materials and finished products.

For the urea segment, the pool prices rose to $19 per metric million British thermal unit (mmbtu) in April, from $13 per mmbtu prior to the outbreak of the West Asia conflict.

While a major share of the natural gas requirement is currently being met through imports of spot LNG cargoes, the availability of adequate natural gas on an ongoing basis is critical amid global LNG supply disruption, ICRA said.

ICRA expects the elevated energy and key input prices to weigh on the profitability of several key downstream sectors in the current financial year. The decline in profitability is likely to affect the credit profile of companies dependent on crude, LNG and other inputs from West Asia.

"The profitability of Phosphatic & Potassic (P&K) fertiliser manufacturers and traders is expected to moderate as the recent revision in the nutrient-based subsidy rates are not reflective of the cost pressures faced by the industry," said Vasisht.

He added that the expected impact of El-Nino on the monsoon in the upcoming Kharif season, would affect the ability of farmers to absorb price increases.

Cognizant revenue rises 6% to $5.41 bn in March quarter

To acquire US-based AI solutions provider Astreya for $600 million

BENGALURU, DHNS

Cognizant has posted a 6% increase in its first quarter revenue (it follows the January-December calendar year) at $5.41 billion and net income for the March quarter at $662 million. The company had posted $663 million income in the year-ago period. Its operating margin stood at 15.6%, down 110 basis points YoY.

For the second quarter, the company expects revenue to the tune of $5.45-5.52 billion, growth of 3.8% to 5.3%, or 3.2% to 4.7% in constant currency. For full year 2026, it expects revenue of $22.11-22.64 billion, growth of 4.8% to 7.3%, or 4.0% to 6.5% in constant currency.

The company expects its full-year 2026 Adjusted Operating Margin to be about 16.0% to 16.2%, or 20 to 40 basis points of expansion.

During the company's post-earnings conference, it highlighted a challenging macro environment.

CFO Jatin Dalal said this year is more uncertain than the previous one, from macro, geopolitical and specific industry undercurrents. "In the first quarter, we achieved strong bookings growth of 21%, expanded our adjusted operating margin year-over-year and drove double-digit adjusted EPS growth that outpaced revenue," he added.

On a trailing-twelve-month basis, bookings increased 11% YoY at $29.6 billion, which represented a book-to-bill of about 1.4x. Bookings in the first quarter increased 21% YoY. First quarter bookings included seven large deals, which are deals with total contract value of $100 million or greater, of which one was a mega deal, which is a deal with total contract value of $500 million or greater, the company said.

"We signed seven large deals in the quarter and delivered over 70% large deal total contract value growth year-over-year," said CEO Ravi Kumar S.

"We believe our AI builder strategy, deep industry expertise and scaled partnership ecosystem uniquely position us to bridge the 'AI Velocity Gap' by helping clients convert their significant AI investments into tangible business outcomes," he added.

Cognizant also announced that it will acquire Astreya, a platform-led, global AI-first IT managed services and solutions provider headquartered in San Jose, California. The deal is valued at about $600 million.

Earnings Highlights — cognizant

- Net income **$662 mn**
- Revenue **$5.4 bn**, up 5.8% YoY
- Operating margin **15.6%**, down 110 basis points
- **7 large deals** signed in first qtr
- 2026 CC revenue growth guidance unchanged at **4.0% to 6.5%**
- Trailing 12-month bookings **$29.6 bn**, up **11%** YoY, driven by **21%** growth in the first quarter (Jan to Mar)
- Adjusted Operating Margin guidance increased from **16.0%** to **16.2%**, YoY expansion of **20-40** basis points compared to prior guidance of **10-30** basis points of expansion
- Total headcount as of Mar 31, 2026: **3,57,600**
- Up **6,000** from Dec 31, 2025, and **21,300** from Mar 31, 2025

"We believe our AI builder strategy, deep industry expertise and scaled partnership ecosystem uniquely position us to bridge the 'AI Velocity Gap' by helping clients convert their significant AI investments into tangible business outcomes. **RAVI KUMAR S,** CEO

Layoffs in Cognizant: Firm announces Project Leap

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

Cognizant, which has the largest presence in India, plans to reduce workforce as the company has introduced the Project Leap programme. Though the company did not specify numbers, it would be across verticals and geographies. According to sources, a few people have already started receiving layoff notices. "Some people have been asked to leave certain projects," sources told *DH*.

During the company's earnings press conference, on the implementation of Project Leap, Cognizant CFO Jatin Dalal said it is currently being implemented and various geographies will go through this process.

In connection with Project Leap, the company expects to record costs of $230 million to $320 million, with substantially all of it expected to be incurred in 2026. "This consists of $200 million to $270 million of employee severance and other personnel related costs, and $30 million to $50 million of other charges," the firm said.

Considering severance costs, the layoff may affect at least 3,500 employees. The company employs 357,600 people, of whom, over 2,50,000 are employed in India.

Project Leap is designed to accelerate Cognizant's transformation to the operating model of the future by funding investments in its integrated offerings, AI capabilities and partnerships, reshaping productivity through competitive offerings and upskilling workforce. The company said in a release that it is fostering a workforce that is properly sized, AI-enabled and possesses the skills required for success as well as optimising its technology footprint.

"We aim to streamline operations and enhance productivity through AI-led efficiencies, creating a more agile and cost-effective operating model. This programme is expected to generate in-year savings of approximately $200 million to $300 million in 2026," it said.

Three years ago, the company had let go of about 3,500 employees and it incurred about $200 million as part of it. Cognizant, which gave a wage hike in November last year, is yet to decide on a hike for this year. The company will be hiring around 20,000 freshers.

In the March quarter, the company added 6,000 employees and on a YoY basis, it added 21,300 employees. On a trailing-twelve months basis, Voluntary Attrition — Tech Services was 12.3% for the period ended March 31, 2026, compared to 12.3% and 12.0% for the periods ended December 31, 2025, and March 31, 2025, respectively.

In the March quarter, the company modified its definition of 'Voluntary Attrition — Tech Services' to exclude certain categories of negotiated separations.

Rupee closes at fresh all-time low against US dollar

MUMBAI, PTI: The rupee depreciated 20 paise to close at its all-time low of 94.88 against the US dollar on Wednesday, pressured by rising Brent crude oil prices, hovering around $115 per barrel, and continued foreign capital outflows.

Forex traders said the elevated crude price is likely to sharply impact India's import costs, while the ongoing West Asia crisis and concerns over potential wider conflict are fuelling investor anxiety.

Moreover, heavy FII selling so far this year further dented investor sentiment.

At the interbank forex market, the rupee opened at 94.79 against the dollar, then lost ground and declined to 94.88 during the session. It finally settled for the day down 20 paise at 94.88, the lowest-ever closing level.

The rupee's previous all-time low closing level of 94.85 versus the US dollar was recorded on March 27 this year. The unit touched its lowest-ever intraday level of 95.22 against the greenback on March 30.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was up 0.08% at 98.72.

West Asia conflict raises inflation risks, says finmin report

NEW DELHI, PTI

The report says the Centre has increased allocation of natural gas towards fertiliser production.

The ongoing conflict in West Asia poses a significant supply-side shock with rising risks to inflation, trade and financial flows, though India's strong domestic demand, policy buffers, resilient financial system and continued public investment are expected to provide a measure of insulation to the economy, the Union Finance Ministry said in a report.

Prolonged uncertainty, particularly around energy and fertiliser supplies, could test the resilience of India's macroeconomic stability, the Monthly Economic Review for April released by the ministry said on Wednesday.

On top of this, the El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is expected to keep India's Southwest monsoon below normal, it said, adding that most rainfall districts are expected to receive below-normal rain this season.

Therefore, it said risks are tilted to the upside for inflation, fiscal and external deficits, and to the downside for economic growth.

However, it said while striving to sustain economic growth, policy is expected to safeguard medium-term fiscal and external stability.

Observing that India enters FY2026-27 at the intersection of domestic resilience and external turbulence, the report said, encouraging a 7-7.4% forecast for the upcoming financial year, only to be clouded by an altered macro-outlook in the wake of the West Asia war.

The Indian economy is estimated to grow at 7.6%, the strongest in recent years.

Noting that a 'supply shock' is apparent in the economy, it said that an accompanying demand compression is a serious concern, given high prices, rising inflation, and a reduced pace of economic activity.

Inflation may become cost-push as businesses/producers pass on their increased input costs to protect their profit margins, it said.

A wide spectrum of downstream industries relies directly on the petroleum sector, and it is likely that input cost pressures will be felt widely across the economy, it added.

To temper cost pressures in critical sectors like agriculture, it said, the government has taken various measures such as increased allocation of natural gas to the fertiliser production, waiver of customs duty and around 12% increase in nutrient-based subsidy for the upcoming kharif season.

Beyond the production structures, it said the conflict has seriously dented investor confidence, disproportionately affecting Emerging Markets and Developing Economies (EMDEs), including India.

The consequent weakening of the rupee is another pressure point for domestic inflation, as that could raise import prices, it said.

The report said that repairing the damage to the oil and gas production/supply infrastructure in the Gulf region may take several months.

If such a gradual recovery is not supported by a good kharif output (a weather shock/below normal monsoon as predicted by the IMD — possible El Nino conditions), it is likely that the price shock felt at the headline inflation might spill over to the core measure through the cost-push channel, it said.

GDP growth may slip if West Asia crisis persists, says EY India

NEW DELHI, DHNS: India's economic growth may slip to around 6% and retail inflation could jump to the RBI's upper tolerance limit of 6% in the current fiscal if the price of the Indian crude basket averages $120 per barrel, EY India said on Wednesday.

EY India Chief Policy Advisor DK Srivastava said the price of Indian crude basket would rise further, should the West Asian crisis persist.

The price of Indian crude basket rose to an average $113 per barrel in March and $116 per barrel in April, from $63 per barrel recorded in January, as per Petroleum Ministry data.

High energy prices are likely to push inflation, which has remained largely subdued in the past couple of years.

The Consumer Price Index-based inflation rose to 3.4% in March, from 3.2% the previous month, largely due to cost push factors, particularly energy prices, as per the latest official data.

"Although room for policy interventions is limited, upward revision in the repo rate and accelerated diversification of sources of supply of crude need to be considered," Srivastava noted in the foreword to EY Monthly Watch report.

"To minimise the adverse impact on fiscal deficit, increased energy prices should be passed on to the retailers to a relatively larger extent," he added.

As per the NSO, India's GDP is estimated to grow by 7.6% in the financial year ended March 2026. Major agencies expect the growth to slip below 7% in the current fiscal.

Domestic air traffic rises to 4.37 cr in March quarter

NEW DELHI, PTI: Indian airlines carried more than 4.37 crore passengers on domestic routes in the first three months of 2026, marking a marginal increase over the year-ago period, according to official data on Wednesday.

In March this year, the air traffic inched up to 1.44 crore from 1.41 crore in February, but was lower than the 1.45 crore recorded in March 2025.

IndiGo's market share rose to 63.3% in March, from 63.1% in February, while that of Air India Group dropped to 26.2% from 27% during the same period.

Akasa Air and Alliance Air saw their respective market shares increase to 5.4% and 0.6%, respectively, in March.

However, the market share of SpiceJet dipped to 3.8% in March this year, while that of Fly91 remained unchanged at 0.2%. "Passengers carried by domestic airlines during January-March 2026 were 437.31 lakh, as against 431.98 lakh during the corresponding period of the previous year, thereby registering an annual growth of 1.23% and a monthly growth of -0.87%," DGCA said in its monthly report.

In terms of On-Time Performance (OTP), IndiGo topped the list at 88.7%, followed by Akasa Air at 82.6%, Air India Group (78%), Alliance Air (62.9%) and SpiceJet (43%). OTP of scheduled domestic airlines has been computed for ten major airports—Bengaluru, Delhi, Hyderabad, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Ahmedabad, Kochi, Guwahati, and Lucknow.

The DGCA said that around 0.92% of the flights were delayed by more than two hours in March.

QUARTERLY GLITTER

India's Q1 gold demand rises 10%, says WGC

MUMBAI, PTI

India's gold demand witnessed a 10% YoY rise to 151 tonnes during the January-March quarter of this year, driven by a sharp surge in investment demand amid a significant jump in prices of the yellow metal, the World Gold Council (WGC) said in a report on Wednesday.

According to the WGC report, there has been a more pronounced structural shift in the country's gold demand, with investment-led buying gaining momentum, which rose by 54% across bars and coins and ETFs to 82 tonnes, offsetting weakness in jewellery demand.

Jewellery demand faced notable headwinds during the quarter,

declining 19% YoY to 66 tonnes, as elevated prices and affordability constraints continued to weigh on consumption, particularly in price-sensitive segments.

For the full year, demand for gold could stand between 650-750 tonnes, compared to 712 tonnes last year, as rising gold prices in recent months have outstripped consumer budgets.

The country's total gold demand during the first quarter of 2025 stood at 137 tonnes, according to the WGC's Q1 2026 Gold Demand Trends report.

In value terms, demand nearly doubled, surging 99% YoY in the March quarter of 2026, to a record Rs 2,27,500 crore ($25 billion), the report added.

"India's gold market in Q1 2026 reflects a continued divergence between volume trends and value growth, shaped by record-high prices and evolving consumer preferences. Total gold demand for the quarter stood at 151 tonnes, marking a 10% increase compared to Q1 2025. In value terms, demand nearly doubled to Rs 99,900 crore, up 99% YoY, underscoring the impact of the sharp rise in gold prices," WGC Regional CEO, India, Sachin Jain said.

Domestic gold price (MCX spot gold price) rose 81% YoY during the first quarter of 2026, reaching a record quarterly average of Rs 1,51,108 per 10 grams, compared to Rs 83,375 during the same period last year.

Bar and coin demand rose sharply, increasing 34% YoY to 62 tonnes — the highest first-quarter level since 2013. Value demand surged 142% to Rs 94,100 crore, a departure from a market where jewellery has traditionally dominated.

Vanguards, MCHS, Beagles in boys' & girls' final league

BENGALURU, DHNS: Led by Nikhil's match-high of 21 points, Beagles SC routed Bharath SU 76-57 in their Super League tie and qualify for the final league phase in the State Sub-junior (U-13) boys and girls' championship for the BS Narayan Memorial Trophy here at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium basketball courts on Wednesday.

LOCAL BASKETBALL

Chayank and Takshak scored 19 and 18 points respectively to power Bangalore Vanguards to an edgy 65-58 win over Yelahanka New Town BC. Svar Nagarajuna tallied 19 points for the losing cause, New Town.

Results (Super league): Boys: Bangalore Vanguards: 65 (Chayank 19, Takshak 18) bt Yelahanka New Town BC: 58 (Svar Nagarjuna 19, Daiwik Singh 11). HT: 32-30. Beagles BC: 76 (Nikhil 21, Advaith 13, Dishanth 13) bt Bharath SU: 57 (Hitesh 15, Ronit 10) HT: 39-21. MNK Rao Park BC: 39 (Vansh 10) bt Vivek's SC: 37 (Kiyansh 17) HT: 31-14.

Girls: MCHS: 65 (Kannira 31, Swarali 18) bt PPC: 31 (Anishka 12) HT: 35-18. Bangalore Vanguards: 65 (Aarushi 32, Aradhana 10) bt Mandya District: 34 (Tejaswini 14) HT: 28-14. Young Orion's SC: 34 (Aaeesha 11, Anushika 10) bt Hebbal BC: 28 (Shruthi 18) HT: 20-10. Mounts Club: 63 (Kenisha 23, Joana 10, Niya 10) bt Hoop 7 BC: 35 (Dhanyashree 23) HT: 34-15. Vivek's SC: 58 (Pahal 16, Anantha 10) bt Halasur BC: 5. HT: 29-00.

Final league qualifiers: Boys: Vimanapura SC, MCHS, B'lore Vanguards, PPC, Beagles, MNK Rao Park BC.

Girls: Beagles, B'lore Vanguards, Young Orions SC, MCHS, Mounts Club, Viveks SC.

Rocket Rod fires in Urban Gallop Plate

DELHI RESULTS

R Kumar-trained Rocket Rod, ridden by Vishal, won the Urban Gallop Plate, the feature event on Wednesday.

1. Turbo Track Plate 1200M: Girl Power (SS Khadri) 1; Nizbati Malang (Abdul Fazai) 2; Striking Distance (Lave Kumar) 3; Chain Of Thoughts (Praveen Saini) 4; WB: 1/2, 2, 35L; T: 1:15.61; TB: Imdad Ali Khan; Fav: Nizbati Malang.

2. Velocity Vibe Plate (Div I) 1000M: Big Bang (Lave Kumar) 1; Bison (S Mosin) 2; Weronika (Aasif Khan) 3; Insta Millionaire (Vishal) 4; WB: 1/2, 3/4, 1 1/4L; T: 59.47s; TB: R Kumar; Fav: Insta Millionaire.

3. Velocity Vibe Plate (Div II) 1000M: Lakshya Veer (R Rakesh) 1; Master Tornado (S Mosin) 2; Jet Thunder (S G Prasad) 3; Ashwa Jubilee (Lave Kumar) 4; WB: 3/4, 2 /1/2, 1-1/4L; T: 59.87s; TB: Magan Singh; Fav: Jet Thunder.

4. Metro Derby Plate 1100M: Best In Business (Abdul Fazal) 1; Salam Bhai (Sameer Qureshi) 2; Chieftain (SS Khadri) 3; Yakutsk (Aasif Khan) 4; WB: 3/4, 3/4, 1-1/4L; T: 1:06.05; TB: Zulfiqar Khan; Fav: Bahadur.

5. The Urban Gallop Plate 1400M: Rocket Rod (Vishal) 1; Attenborough (Vinay Jaiswal) 2; Ashwa Changez (K Nazil) 3; Missey Boy (Sameer Qureshi) 4; WB: 3/4, 3/4, Nk; T: 1:24.83; TB: R Kumar; Fav: Ashwa Pathan.

6. Neon Speed Plate 1400M: Lady Danger (S G Prasad) 1; Heer (Jai Parkash) 2; Jet Falcon (Saurav Rawat) 3; Ashwa Denali (GS Shekhawat) 4; WB: 1-3/4, Nk, 3/4L; T: 1:25.64; TB: R Kumar; Fav: Ashwa Denali.

Bengaluru dividends

I race: Rs 56w; Rs 22, 10p; Shp: Rs 23; Thp: Rs 22; Fc: Rs 188; Q: Rs 74; Tri: Rs 235 & 119; Exp: Rs 2199 & 1211.

II race: Rs 58w; Rs 12, 15p; Shp: Rs 38; Thp: Rs 30; Fc: Rs 601; Q: Rs 181; Tri: Rs 857 & 319; Exp: Rs 2283 & 515.

III race: Rs 49w; Rs 19, 17p; Shp: Rs 31; Thp: Rs 36; Fc: Rs 223; Q: Rs 85; Tri: Rs 536 & 75; Exp: Rs 509 & 394.

IV race: Rs 41w; Rs 24, 14, 20p; Shp: Rs 40; Thp: Rs 34; Fc: Rs 819; Q: Rs 387; Tri: Rs 1450 & 543; Exp: Rs 4910 & 1753.

V race: Rs 33w; Rs 18, 11, 23p; Shp: Rs 54; Thp: Rs 65; Fc: Rs 375; Q: Rs 267; Tri: Rs 554 & 219; Exp: Rs 19,771 & 8473.

VI race: Rs 38w; Rs16, 19, 18p; Shp: Rs 60; Thp: Rs 42; Fc: Rs 106; Q: Rs 44; Tri: Rs 308 & 165; Exp: Rs 880 & 353.

Jackpot: Rs 57,113. **Runner-up:** Rs 2369. **Mini-jackot:** Rs 4912. **Treble:** Rs 1117.

Ashwa Kanchenjunga for feature

DELHI SELECTION

S Nawab-trained Ashwa Kanchenjunga, to be ridden by K Nazil, is favoured to win Alwidha Plate, the feature event on Thursday. The first race starts at 3:15 pm.

1. Family Welfare Plate (Div I) 1100M: O Romeo 1; Jet Falcon 2; Miss Marmalade 3.

2. Family Welfare Plate (Div II) 1100M: Juggaad 1; Miss Berg 2; Shera 3.

3. Closing Ceremony Plate 1200M: Nairobi 1; Dubai Falcon 2; Salam Bhai 3.

4. Alwidha Plate 1200M: Ashwa Kanchenjunga 1; Lodge Keeper 2; Ashwa Simran 3.

5. Good Bye Cup 1200M: Miss Boost 1; Master Bomber 2; Divya Shakthi 3.

6. Happy Ending Plate 1000M: Trending Cruise 1; Chieftain 2; Yakutsk 3.

Day's best: Nairobi. **Jackpot:** 2,3,4,5 & 6. **Treble:** 4, 5, 6.

FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Semifinal battle for the ages

Champions PSG edge Bayern 5-4 in an extraordinary first leg clash

PARIS, AFP

Khvicha Kvaratskhelia and Ousmane Dembele scored twice each as Paris Saint-Germain beat Bayern Munich 5-4 in an epic first leg of their Champions League semifinal on Tuesday -- an extraordinary encounter that was the highest-scoring match ever at this stage of the competition.

The first half alone was crazy, with Harry Kane giving Bayern the lead from a penalty, only for Kvaratskhelia to equalise before Joao Neves headed the hosts in front at an enthralled Parc des Princes.

Michael Olise made it 2-2, but a Dembele penalty in first-half stoppage time had the reigning champions back ahead at the interval.

Kvaratskhelia, surely the standout player in this season's Champions League, and Dembele both then scored again to have hosts PSG seemingly out of sight, only for Dayot Upamecano to pull one back before Luis Diaz made it 5-4.

An unforgettable game -- perhaps better even than last season's semifinal between Inter Milan and Barcelona -- leaves the tie between the continent's two best teams of the moment wonderfully poised for next Wednesday's return at the Allianz Arena, with a place in the final in Budapest on May 30 on the line.

"I'm sure everyone who loves football really enjoyed watching that. It was a real pleasure to play in that game, the kind of game we dream of playing in as kids," PSG captain Marquinhos told broadcaster Canal Plus.

His team will be returning to Munich -- scene of their 5-0 win over Inter in last year's final -- with the advantage, but Bayern will be confident they can overturn the narrow deficit at home.

The French champions are seeking to become just the second side in the modern Champions League era to retain the trophy, while the German champions are hoping to reach the final for the first time since 2020, when they defeated PSG to lift the trophy for the sixth time.

Vincent Kompany's team arrived in Paris having scored 167 goals this season, led by the remarkable Kane and his 53 goals in 45 appearances.

This tie had a lot to live up to, after Bayern's spectacular win over Real Madrid in the quarterfinals, but it was an instant classic as both teams showcased their devastating firepower. Bayern went ahead in the 17th minute as Willian Pacho chopped down Diaz and Kane converted the resulting penalty for his 54th of the campaign. The visitors won 2-1 here in November in the league phase thanks to a Diaz double and they were the better team early on this time.

But their front-foot approach made them vulnerable to the counter-attack, and PSG's leveller came just after the midway point in the first half.

The brilliant Kvaratskhelia broke clear of Josip Stanisic down the left before cutting inside and firing into the far corner.

A classic Kvaratskhelia goal was followed by Neves heading in Dembele's corner on 33 minutes.

The action was only just getting started, however, as French international Olise drove towards the PSG box before smashing in for 2-2.

PSG then won a penalty at the end of the first half when a Dembele cross struck the arm of Alphonso Davies, the Canadian making his first start in the Champions League this season after injury.

It was given by the Swiss referee after a VAR check, and Dembele beat Manuel Neuer to make it 3-2 at half-time -- a lead which PSG added to after the restart, leaving Bayern stunned.

Achraf Hakimi's assist was swept in by Kvaratskhelia for 4-2 on 56 minutes, the Georgian getting his seventh goal in seven games in the knockout phase.

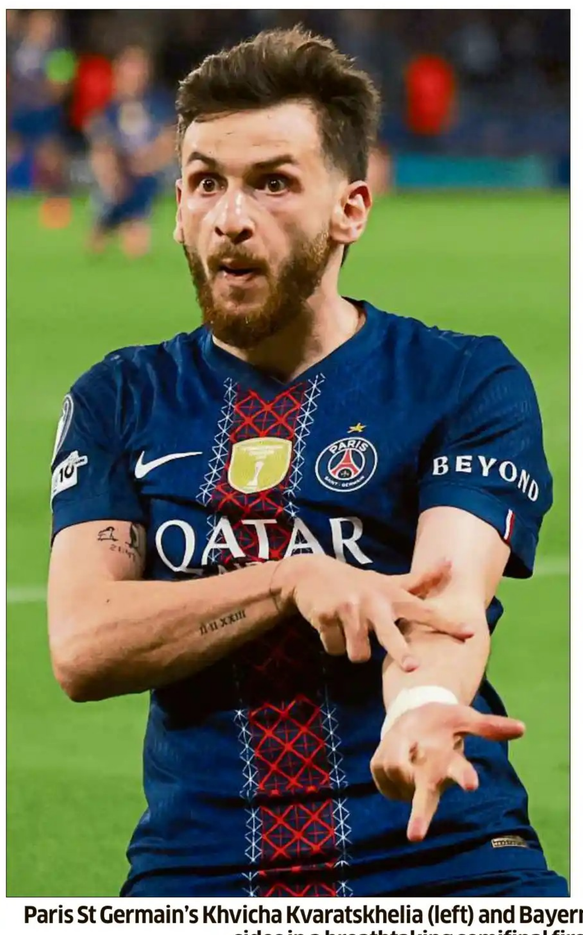
Bayern were not able to reset before Dembele surprised Neuer with a shot in off the near post to make it 5-2 with his second of the night.

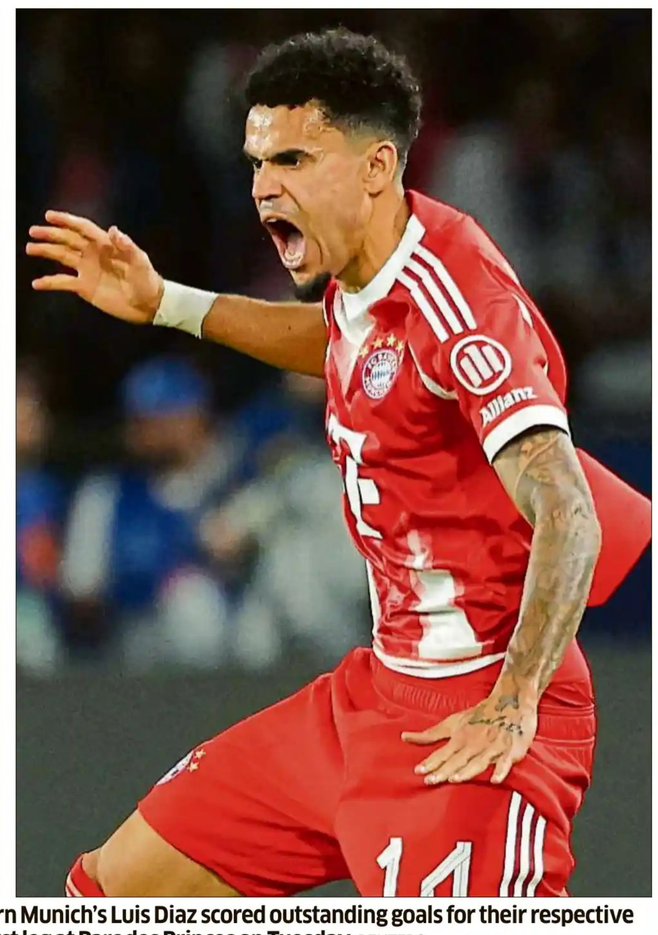
But Bayern were not done, as Upamecano headed in Joshua Kimmich's free-kick to take Kompany's side to 170 for their season tally.

Diaz, who was sent off in the November meeting, then dribbled past Marquinhos before slotting in for the night's final goal, making it 5-4.

Kompany, watching from the stands due to suspension, would have been delighted with his team's response -- even if they were relieved to see Senny Mayulu's late strike for PSG come back off Neuer's crossbar.

Result: PSG: 5 (Kvaratskhelia 24th, 56th, Neves 33rd, Dembele 45+5, 58th) bt Bayern Munich: 4 (Kane 17th, Olise 41st, Upamecano 65th, Diaz 68th)





Paris St Germain's Khvicha Kvaratskhelia (left) and Bayern Munich's Luis Diaz scored outstanding goals for their respective sides in a breathtaking semifinal first leg at Parc des Princes on Tuesday. REUTERS

WC: Red cards to combat racism

VANCOUVER, AFP

World Cup players who cover their mouths during confrontations with opponents will face a red card as part of a new initiative aimed at combating racism, world governing body FIFA said on Tuesday.

In a statement following a meeting of the International Football Association Board (IFAB) in Vancouver, FIFA confirmed that the rule was one of two law changes that would be introduced at this year's World Cup.

"At the discretion of the competition organiser, any player covering their mouth in a confrontational situation with an opponent may be sanctioned with a red card," FIFA said in a statement.

The new rule follows controversy earlier this year when Benfica winger Gianluca Prestianni was accused of racially abusing Real Madrid star Vinicius Junior during a Champions League game in February.

Prestianni was accused of calling Vinicius a "monkey" repeatedly while covering his mouth. Prestianni denied racially abusing Vinicius but was later banned for six matches -- with three of those suspended -- for "homophobic conduct".

FIFA President Gianni Infantino had voiced support for the law change in an interview with British broadcaster Sky News last month.

"If a player covers his mouth and says something, and this has a racist consequence, then he has to be sent off, obviously," Infantino said.

"There must be a presumption that he has said something he shouldn't have said, otherwise he wouldn't have had to cover his mouth.

"If you do not have something to hide, you don't hide your mouth when you say something. That's it, as simple as that."

Players, who cover their mouths during confrontations with opponents at the World Cup, will face a red card. AFP FILE PHOTO

Top seed Reyansh in U-11 boys' final; Vaibhav in U-13 title round

BENGALURU, DHNS: Top seeds in boys' under-13 and under-11 categories moved into the finals in contrasting fashion of the Yonex-Sunrise Karnataka state U-11 & U-13 ranking badminton tournament here at Spark7sports Arena on Wednesday.

LOCAL BADMINTON

In the U-11 semifinal, Reyansh Rishik Sai Yaganti, seeded No. 1, of Bengaluru Rural defeated Saathvik Sridhar Reddy 21-17, 21-16 while Vaibhav Rao Nandikolla, the top seed in U-13 section, overcame mid-game slump to beat Arjun Aralgundagi 21-23, 22-20, 21-16.

Results (all semifinals): Boys' singles (U-11): Reyansh Rishik Sai Yaganti bt Saathvik Sridhar Reddy 21-17, 21-16; Atharva Sahoo bt Rishvanth G 21-11, 21-13.

U-13: Vaibhav Rao Nandikolla bt Arjun Aralgundagi 21-23, 22-20, 21-16; Gnan Rishik Boligarla bt Manvith Manibettu Adesh 19-21, 23-21, 21-8.

Girls' singles U-11: Jyotsna Vinod bt Yuvika Thamaya 16-21, 21-13, 21-19; Krupasya Amitha Reddy R bt Aroushi Vainavi 19-21, 21-16, 21-11.

U-13: Sihi Adarsh bt Hanvittha K A 21-14, 21-11; Shreeya A Rao bt Stuthi S Shetty 21-18, 21-11.

BTC sets in motion the process to shift to Kunigal

SIDNEY KIRAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Bangalore Turf Club (BTC) in the heart of the City is all set to shift to Kunigal in 2-3 years, with the world-renowned Jockey Club in England offering to design the new facility pro bono, BTC chairman L Shivashankar **(in pic)** revealed on Wednesday.

"The State Government has offered us 118 acres in Kunigal and the managing committee of the Bangalore Turf Club has decided to set in motion a move to the new facility in the mandated 2-3 years' time," said Shivashankar during a press conference to announce the commencement of the Summer Season from May 1.

"We've also asked the State Government for about four acres in the current premises since Kunigal is not easily accessible to all. We are working on the modalities," added the chairman.

The financial details of the whole deal between State Government and BTC aren't clear at the moment. BTC has requested 4 acres in its current premises in order to conduct on and off course betting for those who can't commute to Kunigal regularly as well as carry out some administrative work.

Former chairman and member of the managing committee, Uday K Easwaran, said Jockey Club have offered to design the race track in Kunigal free of cost. "We had a meeting with Jockey Club, their chairman, CEO and other representatives. They said they will design the track pro bono.

"Obviously, the land that was selected 250 years ago to breed the horses of Tippu Sultan. Kunigal has the best soil conditions for horse racing. The first thing Jockey Club said is, as soon as we get the permission, they would like to come down, design the track and lay it out for us, free of cost."

Shivashankar's predecessor R Manjunath Ramesh, current MC member, said the club is still working on other key aspects like building galleries for fans, a veterinary hospital and stable for horses and a place for bookmakers to operate. "These formalities we are yet to work out. It's on paper right now. So, our own members are there who are developers and promoters. And we would like to rope them in. But all these things are at preliminary stages."

Steward Shankar Balu said the estimated cost for building the new facility would be between Rs 350-500 crore.

Summer season from Friday, record Rs 5 cr for Derby

The summer season at the Bangalore Turf Club will kick off on May 1 with the blue riband event – the Summer Derby – offering a whopping prize money of Rs 5 crore that will make it the richest race in the Indian calendar, reports DHNS.

As reported by DH earlier, racing will be conducted over 28 days with the first two weekends reserved only for local horses before being thrown open for outstation participants.

The total prize money during the season which will conclude on July 31 is estimated at Rs 21.53 crore. The Colts and Fillies Championships Stakes -- two very important races in the build-up to the Summer Derby -- will offer Rs 1 crore prize each. Zavaray S Poonawalla will contribute a significant percentage towards the prize money for all the races, including the classics.

The Zavaray S Poonawalla Bangalore Summer Derby – one of the biggest races in the country -- is scheduled for July 12.

Indian lifters grab 3 medals at CWG and Universal Cup

NEW DELHI, PTI: Indian lifters continued their impressive run at the Commonwealth Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships and Universal Cup, fetching a gold and three silver medals on the third day of the competition in Apia, Samoa on Wednesday.

Bellana Harika fetched the lone gold of the day in the 69kg weight class at the Commonwealth Youth and Junior Championships with a total effort of 197kg (86kg+111kg).

Karangi Tharangini 179kg (79kg+100kg) and Bhumika Mohite 195kg (109kg+86kg) won the silver medals in the 63kg events.

In the Universal Cup, Abhishek Nipane clinched the 88kg silver with a total effort of 324kg (140kg+184kg).

Indian lifters had grabbed four golds on the second day of competition.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್‌ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ
ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮಂಗಳೂರು
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಕೊಟ್ಟಾರ, ಮಂಗಳೂರು
ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ದ.ಕ.ಜಿ.ಪ/ಮಂ/ಟೆಂಡರ್-4/ಎಇ-1/2026-27/190 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 28-04-2026

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

2025-26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ರಾಜ್ಯ ವಿಪತ್ತು ಉಪಶಮನ ನಿಧಿ (SDMF) ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಕನ್ನಡ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿನ ಭೂಕುಸಿತ ತಡೆಗಟ್ಟುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಕ್ರಿಯಾಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಮಂಜೂರಾದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ದ್ವಿ ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ವರ್ಷನ್-2 ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದ್ದು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ದಿನಾಂಕವನ್ನು ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿದೆ.

ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಹೆಸರು: (1) ಉಳ್ಳಾಲ ಕೋಟೆಕಾರು ವಾ.ಸಂ.08ರ ಕಾಚಾರು ಸೇತುವೆ ಬಳಿ ಮಳೆನೀರು ಹರಿಯುವ ಪೋರಂಬೋಕು ತೋಡಿನ ತಡೆಗೋಡೆ ಪುನರ್ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ. RDPR/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT26311, ಟೆಂಡರಿಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ: ರೂ. 61.50 ಲಕ್ಷ

(2) ಉಳ್ಳಾಲ ತಾಲೂಕು ಕಿನ್ಯಾ ಗ್ರಾಮ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ ನಡುಮನೆ ಸೇತುವೆ ಬಳಿ ತಡೆಗೋಡೆ ರಚನೆ. RDPR/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT26310, ಟೆಂಡರಿಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 61.50 ಲಕ್ಷ

(1) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 12-05-2026 ಅಪರಾಹ್ನ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ (2) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 13-05-2026 ಅಪರಾಹ್ನ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ (3) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ಅನುಮೋದನೆಯಾದ ನಂತರ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನ ಅಂತರ್‌ಜಾಲ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ, ಕಛೇರಿ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 0824-2451281 ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/- ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್,
ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮಂಗಳೂರು

DIPR/DK/KSMCA/143/26-27 Dt. 29.04.2026

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಪಂಚಾಯತ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಕಾರವಾರ, ಉತ್ತರ ಕನ್ನಡ
ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 08382-220556 ಇ-ಮೇಲ್: predkarwar@gmail.com
ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ:ಪಂರಾ.ಇಂ/ಕಾ/ಪಿಬಿ-1/2026-27/04 ದಿ: 28.04.2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ-04/2026-27 (ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಮೂಲಕ)

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ ಕಾರವಾರ ಇವರಿಂದ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸಿದ ಅರ್ಹ ಹಾಗೂ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ. ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯಿಂದ ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ವಿವಿಧ ಲೆಕ್ಕಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆಯಡಿಯ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಖರೀದಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಕಾನೂನು ಹಾಗೂ ನಿಯಮಾವಳಿ 2000 ಹಾಗೂ Standard Tender Document ನ K.W-1,2,3 ರ ತತ್ಸಂಬಂಧ ಕಾಲಕಾಲಕ್ಕೆ ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾದ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ಆದೇಶಗಳನ್ವಯ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟು ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನಂತೆ ಐಟಂವಾರು ಟೆಂಡರ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಇ-ಆಡಳಿತ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಅಥವಾ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಿದಂತೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಹಾಗೂ ಇನ್ನುಳಿದ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಖಚಿತಪಡಿಸಿಕೊಂಡು ಟೆಂಡರಿಗಾಗಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವಿವರಗಳು ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನಂತಿವೆ.

ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಹೆಸರು: (ಮೀಸಲಾತಿ: ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ 2ಅ) (1) 2025-26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ 5054 ರಸ್ತೆ ಅನುದಾನದಡಿ ಕುಮಟಾ ತಾಲೂಕಿನ ಹೆಗಡೆ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ದೊಡ್ಡಕೊಪ್ಪ ರಸ್ತೆ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ. ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ: ರೂ. 50.00 ಲಕ್ಷ, ಮುಂಗಡ ಠೇವಣಿ: ರೂ. 50,000.00, ಕಾಲಮಿತಿ (ಮಳೆಗಾಲ ಸಹಿತ): 05 ತಿಂಗಳು

(ಮೀಸಲಾತಿ: ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ) (2) --ಸದರ-ಕುಮಟಾ ತಾಲೂಕಿನ ಮಿರ್ಜಾನ ಗ್ರಾಪಂ ಸಂತೇಗದ್ದೆ ರಸ್ತೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ. ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ: ರೂ. 75.00 ಲಕ್ಷ, ಮುಂಗಡ ಠೇವಣಿ: ರೂ. 1,20,000.00, ಕಾಲಮಿತಿ (ಮಳೆಗಾಲ ಸಹಿತ): 06 ತಿಂಗಳು

(3) 2024-25ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ 4235-02-102-0-06-13 ಹಾಗೂ ನರೇಗಾ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಕುಮಟಾ ತಾಲೂಕಿನ ತೊರ್ಕೆ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ತೊರೆಗಜನಿ ಅಂಗನವಾಡಿ ಕಟ್ಟಡ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ. ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ: ರೂ. 12.00 ಲಕ್ಷ, ಮುಂಗಡ ಠೇವಣಿ: ರೂ. 30,000.00, ಕಾಲಮಿತಿ (ಮಳೆಗಾಲ ಸಹಿತ): 06 ತಿಂಗಳು

(1) ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಶೆಡ್ಯೂಲ್-ಬಿಗಳನ್ನು ಮತ್ತು Technical Bid ನ್ನು ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ತುಂಬಿ ಮರಳಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 11.05.2026 ರ ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ 16.30 ಘಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ. (2) ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ Technical Bid ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 12.05.2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 16.31 ಘಂಟೆಗೆ. (3) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕವನ್ನು ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಯಶಸ್ವಿಯಾದ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಗೆ ನಂತರದಲ್ಲಿ ತಿಳಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/- ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರು,
ಪಂಚಾಯತ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಕಾರವಾರ

DIPR/KWR/KSMCA/87/26-27 dt. 28.04.2026

ಮಹಾರಾಣಿ ಕ್ಲಸ್ಟರ್ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ
MAHARANI CLUSTER UNIVERSITY
ಅರಮನೆ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು - 560001. Email:mcublr@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಮಕ್ಲವಿ/ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ.ವಿ-009/010/2026-27/15 ದಿನಾಂಕ:29.04.2026

ಮಹಾರಾಣಿ ಕ್ಲಸ್ಟರ್ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯದ ಸಮಾಜಶಾಸ್ತ್ರ ವಿಭಾಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಡಿ ದೇವರಾಜ ಅರಸು ಸಂಶೋಧನಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯಿಂದ ಪ್ರಾಯೋಜಿತವಾಗಿ "ಹಾವಾಡಿಗ" ಸಮುದಾಯದ ಕುಲಶಾಸ್ತ್ರೀಯ ಅಧ್ಯಯನದ ಕಾರ್ಯವನ್ನು ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ. ಈ ವಿಷಯವಾಗಿ "ಹಾವಾಡಿಗ" ಸಮುದಾಯಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸುವಂತೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯುಳ್ಳವರು 9945082165/9972735600/996492388 ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಗಳನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸುವುದು ಹಾಗೂ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯದ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ಗೆ ಭೇಟಿ ನೀಡುವುದು.

ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ ವಿಳಾಸ https://mcu.karnataka.gov.in/90/centre-for-sociology-studies-and-research/en

ಸಹಿ/- ಕುಲಸಚಿವರು,
ಮಹಾರಾಣಿ ಕ್ಲಸ್ಟರ್ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ

ಡಿಐಪಿಆರ್/ಸಿಪಿ/408/ಸಿಸಿಎಲ್/2026-27

MSIL Mysore Sales International Limited
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
PAPER DIVISION, MSIL House,
36 Cunningham Road, Bengaluru - 560 052
Phone : 080-22257649
No. MSIL/PD-16/2026-27/Call-2 Dated: 29.04.2026

Short-Term Tender Notification-Call-2
(through e-procurement portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)

Short term tenders are invited for **"Selection of convertors for conversion of Vidya and Lekhak Note Books"**. Last date and time for submitting tender **is 06.05.2026 before 3.30 PM.** For more details visit **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- General Manager (Paper Division)

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Shanthinagar Division, P.U. Building, 9th Floor,
M.G. Road, Bengaluru-560001.
No:EE/SN/TEND/02/2026-27 Date: 29.04.2026

Invitation for Tender (IFT)
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPPP only)
website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

The Executive Engineer (Shanthinagara), BCCC, Bengaluru invites tenders from eligible Contractors registered in BCCC/CPWD/KPWD/Railways/MES/any State or Central Govt. Organisation for the works given in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1.	Providing Temporary Control Room in Shanthinagara and Vinayakanagara Sub Divisions for the Year 2026-27 (7 Month) (Ashoknagara & Shanthinagara Ward) (Neelasandra, Vinayakanagara & Austin Town) **Approximate value of work: (₹ in Lakhs): 15.00, EMD (in ₹): 37,500/-.**
2.	Providing Temporary Control Room in Domlur and Neelasandra Sub Divisions for the Year 2026-27 (7 Month) (Vannarpete & Ambedkarnagara Ward), (Jogupalya, Agaram & Domlur) **Approximate value of work: (₹ in Lakhs): 15.00, EMD (in ₹): 37,500/-.**

Calendar of Events: (1) Pre bid meeting will be held on **05.05.2026 at 3:30 p.m. (2)** Last date submission of tender documents on or before **11.05.2026 at 4:00 p.m. (3)** Technical Bids will be opened on **12.05.2026 at 4:30 p.m.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Shanthinagar Division, BCCC.

"We've been very good at taking Powerplay wickets and putting opposition under pressure. We have an attack that can exploit different surfaces.

ANDY FLOWER, RCB HEAD COACH

10 TEAMS 13 VENUES 58 DAYS 74 MATCHES

It's a reality check for PBKS, says Hopes

MULLANPUR, PTI: Punjab Kings fast bowling coach James Hopes said his side's first defeat of the season is a timely "reality check", but insisted there is no sense of panic within the camp.

Table-toppers Punjab Kings, the only unbeaten side heading into the clash, suffered a six-wicket loss to Rajasthan Royals on Tuesday night.

"It's a reality check. Yeah, we're flying. We've been winning games, and it's great, and everyone's happy, and it's still a great environment," Hope said at the post-match press conference.

"It's game eight, and we've just lost our first game of the IPL, so I'm not going to sit here and say it's doom and gloom in the change room," he added.

The Kings have enough time to regroup as they next fly to Ahmedabad to take on Gujarat Titans on Sunday. Hopes said the focus would be on addressing minor shortcomings.

"One loss, you're not going to go through the IPL and not lose a game. Now it's about we have a few days to regroup before we play GT.

"It's about just getting back to work in a couple of days at training and trying to iron out some kinks, trying to work through the best combination for the conditions we're going to get and the opposition we're going to get in the next couple of games."

Despite the loss the Australian drew positives which included the performance of left-am spinner Harpreet Brar, who returned with economical figures of 0/25 in game that saw over 400 runs being scored.

Sunrisers top batting carnage

Rickelton's big ton laid to waste as Klassen, Head go berserk

MUMBAI, PTI

Travis Head (76) and Heinrich Klaasen (65 not out) outmuscled Ryan Rickelton's record 123 not out for Mumbai Indians as Sunrisers Hyderabad romped home to a six-wicket in their Indian Premier League contest, here on Wednesday.

After Rickelton's highest individual score for MI and also their fastest-ever ton in IPL history took the hosts to a formidable 243/5, SRH rode on a combined batting show to win with eight balls to spare.

Mumbai Indians had also registered their highest score batting first, but SRH recorded the fourth-highest successful run chase in IPL history on a docile wicket which provided absolutely no competition between the bat and the ball.

Chasing 244, SRH made 249/4 in 18.4 overs. While Head provided early fireworks racing to 30-ball 76 with eight sixes and four fours, Klaasen produced an equally brutal knock to finish with 65 not out off 30 balls with seven fours and four sixes.

For MI, a string of missed opportunities early on proved costly in their sixth defeat in eight matches. While he was in his usual element, Head's knock was also littered with lifelines provided by MI.

The first ball of the third over from Trent Boult (1/41) swung away from Head and he threw his hands at it, slicing in the air towards deep point. Naman Dhir did well to get to the ball but it burst through his hands to land beyond the ropes.

In the fifth over, Head went deep in the crease to cut one in the air and despite timing his jump right, the ball brushed Dhir's fingers.

Dhir was in action again at the boundary ropes over point when he collected the ball in his hands but ended up on the ropes with it, as Head completed a 20-ball half-century.

A pivotal moment had, meanwhile, arrived in the third over's second ball when one that shaped away from Head off Boult, was collected by Rickelton and none in the MI camp realised there was an edge off the bat.

Head and Abhishek went about their job nonchalantly while smacking almost every bowler around the park.

Wicketless once again, Jasprit Bumrah (0/54) was hit for 14 in his first over, Boult for 18 after 11 in his first, and Will Jacks was clobbered for 19 runs in his first as SRH raced to 62 in four overs.

The onslaught continued beyond the powerplay when MI brought in Ashwani Kumar (2-0-41-0), as SRH openers collected 23 runs off the left-arm seamer to continue with the carnage.

Sunrisers Hyderabad opener Travis Head (left) smashed a 30-ball 76 before Heinrich Klaasen finished the 244-run chase with a blistering 65 not out against Mumbai Indians at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai on Wednesday. REUTERS

SCOREBOARD

MUMBAI INDIANS: Will Jacks c Kishan b Reddy 46, Ryan Rickelton (not out) 123, Suryakumar Yadav c Sharma b Malinga 5, Naman Dhir c Dubey b Hinge 22, Hardik Pandya c Klaasen b Hussain 31, Tilak Varma c Klaasen b Hinge 7, Robin Minz (not out) 1. Extras (LB-1 W-7) 8. **TOTAL (for 5 wkts, 20 overs) 243.**

Fall of wickets: 1-93, 2-110, 3-165, 4-221, 5-232.

Bowling: Pat Cummins 4-0-39-0, Praful Hinge 4-0-54-2, Eshan Malinga 4-0-29-1, Harsh Dubey 3-0-50-0, Sakib Hussain 3-0-39-1, Nitish Kumar Reddy 2-0-31-1.

SUNRISERS HYDERABAD: Abhishek Sharma c Boult b Ghazanfar 45, Travis Head c Jacks b Pandya 76, Ishan Kishan b Ghazanfar 0, Heinrich Klaasen (not out) 65, Nitish Kumar Reddy c Yadav b Boult 21, Salil Arora (not out) 30. Extras (LB-4 W-8) 12. **TOTAL (for 4 wkts, 18.4 overs) 249.**

Fall of wickets: 1-129, 2-129, 3-133, 4-213.

Bowling: Trent Boult 4-0-41-1, Jasprit Bumrah 4-0-54-0, Will Jacks 1-0-19-0, Allah Mohammad Ghazanfar 4-0-51-2, Ashwani Kumar 2-0-41-0.

Result: SRH won by 6 wkts

PoM: Heinrich Klaasen

Speeding RCB look to hit GT mode

Challengers seek a win and return to pole position

LIVE 7.30 PM

AHMEDABAD, PTI

Searching for some much-needed consistency, Gujarat Titans face a stern test against a red-hot Royal Challengers Bengaluru in their Indian Premier League match here on Thursday.

At the halfway stage of the tournament, Gujarat Titans find themselves stuck in mid-table with four wins and as many losses from eight games.

In contrast, defending champions RCB have been in imperious form, registering six victories in eight matches.

RCB's new ball duo of Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Josh Hazlewood has wreaked havoc in tandem. While Bhuvneshwar has turned back the clock with his swing masterclass, Hazlewood has troubled the batters with Test match lengths targeting the outside edge.

Add to that, the challenge of facing Krundal Pandya and his barrage of variations in the middle overs.

GT have been labelled as top heavy with Sai Sudharsan, captain Shubman Gill and Jos Buttler again scoring the bulk of the runs. Washington Sundar has proved himself in the middle order while finishers like Shahrukh Khan and Rahul Tewatia have not set the stage on fire yet.

Jason Holder has been accommodated in the middle-order to lend more potency.

Both sides met only a week ago at the Chinnaswamy Stadium with RCB comfortably chasing down 206 with seven balls to spare. GT have also not been able to dominate at home, having lost two of their three games at Motera.

RCB are favourites to win the game but there is always room for improvement. Jacob Bethell, who played the last two games due to injury to fellow Englishman Phil Salt, was not able to make an impact.

The highly rated star would be itching to make a statement on Thursday night while batting alongside Virat Kohli.

Following twin failures, RCB opener Jacob Bethell will be eyeing a big knock when they take on Gujarat Titans on Thursday. PTI

POINTS TABLE

Team	Played	Won	Lost	NR	Pts	NRR
Punjab Kings	8	6	1	1	13	1.043
Royal Challengers	8	6	2	0	12	1.919
Sunrisers Hyderabad	9	6	3	0	12	0.832
Rajasthan Royals	9	6	3	0	12	0.617
Gujarat Titans	8	4	4	0	8	-0.475
Chennai Super Kings	8	3	5	0	6	-0.121
Delhi Capitals	8	3	5	0	6	-1.060
Kolkata Knight Riders	8	2	5	1	5	-0.751
Mumbai Indians	8	2	6	0	4	-0.784
Lucknow Super Giants	8	2	6	0	4	-1.106

A screen grab of RR skipper Riyan Parag vaping in the dressing room during a game against Punjab Kings. X

RR skipper Parag in trouble after being caught vaping in dressing room

NEW DELHI, PTI

Rajasthan Royals captain Riyan Parag has courted controversy after TV cameras caught him "vaping" in the dressing room during his team's Indian Premier League game against Punjab Kings in Mullanpur.

The Indian government had banned e-cigarettes back in 2019, prohibiting their production, sale and distribution. As per the law, the offender faces imprisonment up to one year and/or a Rs one lakh fine for a first time offence. Parag, who has not had the best of times with the bat this IPL, was seen inhaling an e-cigarette, also known as vaping, in the dressing room during the live broadcast of their game against Punjab Kings on Tuesday night.

The act caught on camera triggered immediate reaction on social media. Parag made a 16-ball 29 in his team's successful chase of 223.

IPL and BCCI officials involved in the conduct of the IPL termed it as a careless act in the age of social media and prying TV cameras.

"A lot of players consume e-cigarettes but they don't do it in the dressing room. It is too risky and careless to be doing that with so many cameras around.

"With Parag caught vaping so openly, the BCCI might be forced to act," said a well placed IPL source.

No Rajasthan Royals team official was available for a comment.

This is not the first controversy to hit the Royals this season. Earlier this month, team manager Romi Bhinder was fined Rs one lakh for breaching PMOA protocol after being found using his phone in the dugout.

Another IPL source said the issue of players' privacy in the dressing room was raised at the Captains Meeting in Mumbai ahead of IPL 2026. Some of the captains had raised an objection to cameras panning to the dressing room during the live broadcast.

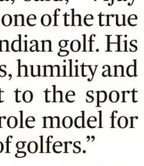
"It was not specifically related to the use of e-cigarettes in the dressing room. It was broadly around their players' privacy. There are times when players are not fully dressed in the dressing room or may want to avoid cameras."

"Having said that, it was careless from Parag and it is difficult to defend something like this.

"An elite athlete caught smoking like this is not setting a good example for the public," said the source.

Veteran golfer Vijay Kumar no more

NEW DELHI, PTI: Veteran golfer Vijay Kumar has died in his home town Lucknow due to a heart attack. He was 57.



Vijay Kumar

The winner of the 2002 Indian Open and a four-time Order of Merit champion, Vijay was among the most accomplished and respected names in Indian professional golf.

Vijay turned professional in 1988. He dominated Indian domestic golf from the mid-1990s to the early part of the next decade with an illustrious career marked by numerous titles.

Vijay's iconic triumph at the 2002 Indian Open remains a landmark moment in Indian golf. He is one of only nine Indian golfers to have won the Indian Open.

Vijay also represented India at the Alfred Dunhill Cup 1999 played in Scotland.

Widely admired for his skill, consistency, competitive spirit and exemplary conduct, Vijay inspired generations of golfers.

Kapil Dev, President, DP World Professional Golf Tour of India, said, "Vijay Kumar ji was one of the true stalwarts of Indian golf. His achievements, humility and commitment to the sport made him a role model for generations of golfers."

Kothari retains title in style

BENGALURU, DHNS

Sourav Kothari, who fired in fits and starts right through his campaign, reserved his best for the last. The reigning champion came up with a brilliant effort in the title clash against fellow Indian and the in-form Pankaj Advani to retain his IBSF World Billiards Championship title late on Tuesday evening at Carlow, Ireland.

The bespectacled Kolkatan, focused and determined, outclassed the 19-time champion with a lopsided 1133-477 verdict in the three-hour final. Like in his earlier matches, he came up second best in the early skirmishes, but once he got his eye in, there was no looking back.

Kothari played like a man possessed, and his unwavering concentration was something to behold. After the initial blues, the 41-year-old came up with a barrage of breaks to floor Advani. He had stupendous runs of 485, 121, 90, 241 and an unfinished 155.

Sourav Kothari celebrates with his IBSF World Billiards Championship title.

When the bell went off, Advani walked across and gave him a congratulatory hug. Kothari looked heavenwards and gestured, "This one was for you, Dad". His father's (Manoj) passing early this year -- a former champion 36 years ago -- may have left a void in his corner, but he knew his father was there in spirit.

"I want to do it again for my father," he said on tournament eve. Five days later, he was holding the most cherished trophy.

The sizzling 485 in reply to his rival's 141 early in the match set the tone. He took an hour and two minutes for the mammoth break. Having stayed off the table for a long period, Advani must have felt his cueing arm stiff as lead. For, when he got the chance, he couldn't get going, often leaving Kothari with an easy leave to capitalise on.

If the 485, which culminated with a missed red pot to the centre pocket, wasn't a hammer blow, the 121 and 90 breaks in quick succession, took the match away from Advani. Trailing 224-700 with a little over an hour until the bell, the Bengalurean made a 64 before rushing an in-off to the top left-hand pocket.

Kothari punished that error with another silken-smooth 241 effort to take a whopping 941-288 lead.

Result (Final): Sourav Kothari: 1133 (485, 121, 90, 241, 155 unf) bt Pankaj Advani: 477 (141, 64, 119).

SL govt takes over cricket board

COLOMBO, AFP: Sri Lanka's government took control of the island's cricket board on Wednesday and appointed a nine-member interim administration to carry out "structural reforms".

Sri Lanka Cricket is the country's wealthiest sporting body, but it has been plagued by allegations of corruption and mismanagement.

World governing body the International Cricket Council suspended Sri Lanka for two months in 2023-2024, citing political interference in the running of the national board.

"All administrative functions of Sri Lanka Cricket will be temporarily brought under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, effective today," the ministry said.

Shortly afterwards, the ministry appointed former investment banker and opposition politician Eran Wickramaratne to lead the board.

Ayush, Prannoy shine in India's loss

HORSENS (DENMARK), PTI

India went down 2-3 to China in their final Group A tie of the Thomas Cup Finals, despite fighting comeback wins from Ayush Shetty and HS Prannoy here on Wednesday.

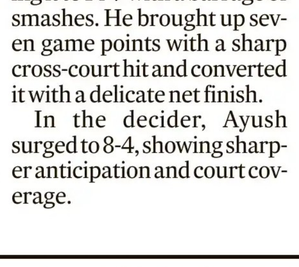
The 2022 champions India, who have already sealed their quarterfinal spot, were on the back foot after Lakshya Sen and the doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty lost close encounters to concede a 0-2 lead.

Under pressure, Ayush delivered, recovering from a game down to beat Weng Hong Yang 17-21, 21-13, 21-15 in the second singles and reduce the margin.

It came down to the second doubles match but the pair of Hariharan Amsakarunan and MR Arjun couldn't get across He Ji Ting and Ren Xiang Yu, losing 17-21, 13-21 as China took an unassailable 3-1 lead.

Prannoy then rallied from a game down to beat Lu Guang Zu 20-22, 21-19, 21-11 in the third singles to reduce the margin of the defeat.

Lakshya, a 2021 world championships bronze medallist, had beaten world No. 7 Li Shi Feng en route to a runner-up finish at the All England Championships last month but he could not replicate that form in the decider, going down 19-21, 21-8, 12-21 in the first singles.



India's Ayush Shetty scored a come-from-behind win over China's Weng Hong Yang on Wednesday. AFP FILE PHOTO

World No. 4 pair of Satwik and Chirag also put up a gallant fight, saving five match points before losing 13-21, 21-13, 24-26 to Paris Olympics silver medallists Liang Wei Keng and Wang Chang.

Following the loss, India finished second in Group A and are likely to face 2014 winners Japan in the quarterfinals. Japan topped Group B.

In the opening game, Ayush stayed in touch early but from 17-17, Weng pulled away, sealing the opening game when the Indian hit the net. The Indian responded aggressively after the change of ends, racing to 7-1 and stretching it to 14-7 with a barrage of smashes. He brought up seven game points with a sharp cross-court hit and converted it with a delicate net finish.

In the decider, Ayush surged to 8-4, showing sharper anticipation and court coverage.

Sinner halts Jodar run to reach semis

MADRID, AFP: Jannik Sinner ended the inspired run of teen home favourite Rafael Jodar with a 6-2, 7-6 (7) victory at the Madrid Open on Wednesday to complete his set of semifinals reached at all nine Masters 1000 tournaments.

The 19-year-old Jodar has taken the tour by storm this clay season, winning a maiden ATP title in Marrakesh, and making the semi-finals in Barcelona and the quarter-finals in Madrid before he was stopped by the world number one at the Caja Magica. The world number one will face Jiri Lehecka or Arthur Fils in Friday's semifinal.

Lucky loser Anastasia Potapova reached the first WTA 1000 semi-final of her career with a hard-fought 6-1, 6-7 (4/7), 6-3 performance against former world number one Karolina Pliskova.

The world number 56, who knocked out Grand Slam champions Elena Rybakina and Jelena Ostapenko in the previous two rounds, awaits Marta Kostyuk or Linda Noskova in the final four.

Meanwhile, Hailey Baptiste ended Aryna Sabalenka's title defence in Madrid on Tuesday and halted the world number one's 15-match winning streak with a 2-6, 6-2, 7-6 (8/6) quarter-final victory. This was only second loss of the season for Sabalenka.

Manika & Co beat Ukraine 3-2 in thriller to go atop Group 6 table

LONDON, PTI: India's women's table tennis team rose to the occasion in a high-stakes group encounter, edging Ukraine 3-2 in a pulsating contest to keep their ITTF World Team Championships Finals qualification hopes on track on Wednesday.

The victory also placed them in a strong position to top Group 6. The encounter began tensely with Manika Batra, ranked No. 49 in the world, on the back foot against the experienced Tetyana Bilenko.

Dropping the second game, 7-11, Manika showed her trademark composure to storm back, taking the next two games for an 11-9, 7-11, 11-6, 11-5 verdict and handing India an early lead.

Ukraine fought back through world No. 51 Margaryta Pesotska, who got the better of Yashaswini Ghorpade in a five-game duel. Ghorpade fought back after losing the first two games, even dishing out a dominant 11-1 third game, but Pesotska held her nerve in the decider to level the tie at 1-1.

India regained control thanks to Diya Chitale, who delivered an assured performance. The young paddler dismantled Veronika Matiunina 11-6, 11-8, 11-6, combining sharp placement with relentless tempo to put India 2-1 ahead.

With the tie hanging in the balance, Margaryta beat Manika 11-9, 5-11, 11-8, 11-6, forcing the contest into a decisive fifth match.

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